TUESDAY
August 15, 2023

BENGALURU
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Vol.54 • No.193

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Department of Information
and Public Relations

"So long as you do not achieve social liberty, whatever freedom is provided by the law is of no avail to you."
- Dr B.R. Ambedkar

Warm Greetings to All
on the occasion of
77th INDEPENDENCE DAY

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Shri Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister and **Shri D K Shivakumar**, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, during the announcement of Five guanrantee schemes.

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As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

karnataka information

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CORPS COMMANDER-LEVEL

India, China hold talks to end LAC stand-off

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UNETHICAL CONDUCT

Impose more fines on TV channels: SC

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INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS

'Let's move ahead with the spirit of harmony'

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'NEEDS TO BE PROTECTED'

Democracy in India, a gift and a warning

Claims to the 'mother of democracy' tag are valid

OPINION » PAGE 13

TURNING POINT

Hardik says his slow approach cost India

SPORT » PAGE 20

NEARBY

20 writers in State live under security cover

BENGALURU
As the nation celebrates freedom, ironically, over 20 writers in Karnataka have been living under round-the-clock police security for years now. This follows their names figuring in hit-lists of those who allegedly killed two writers in the State and them receiving multiple threat letters. » Page 6

Govt. plan for ride-hailing apps gains momentum

BENGALURU
The State government's ride-hailing app plan is gaining momentum, with the Transport Department asking the e-Governance Department to initiate the development of the mobile application. » Page 7

51 killed as rain, landslips rock Himachal Pradesh

Nine killed as temple collapses following landslip in Shimla; more feared trapped under debris; 19 dead in rain-related incidents in Mandi; UNESCO World Heritage railway line damaged

Press Trust of India
SHIMLA

At least 51 people were killed in Himachal Pradesh as rain wreaked havoc in the State, triggering landslips that blocked key roads and brought down houses, officials said on Monday.

In the Summer Hill area of Shimla, at least nine people died after a Shiv temple collapsed following a landslip.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, who visited the site, said the shrine was crowded with devotees offering prayers on an important day of the holy month of Sawan, when the incident happened. The toll in the incident may rise, officials said.

In a second landslip in Shimla, five bodies were pulled out of the rubble in the Fagli area and 17 persons were rescued, Shimla SP Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi said. Deputy Commissioner of Shimla Aditya Negi said many people were feared buried under the debris at the sites of the two landslips.

Badly hit: Rescue operations on after the collapse of a temple following a landslip near Summer Hill in Shimla on Monday. PTI

As many as 19 persons died in various rain-related incidents in Mandi district, Deputy Commissioner Arindam Chaudhary said.

Roads closed

All schools and colleges in the State were closed on Monday. According to the State emergency operation centre, 621 roads were closed. The weather office predicted extremely heavy rain in nine districts on Monday, and issued a yellow warning for Tuesday. It has predicted a wet spell in the State till August 18.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said teams of the National Disaster Response Force are engaged in rescue operations in the State, and termed the loss of lives due to the deluge "extremely distressing".

The UNESCO World Heritage Shimla-Kalka railway line was damaged near Summer Hill after a landslip swept away a 50-metre bridge, leaving a portion of the track hanging in the air, officials said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Signals at Cong. meet may give a boost to those who lost out

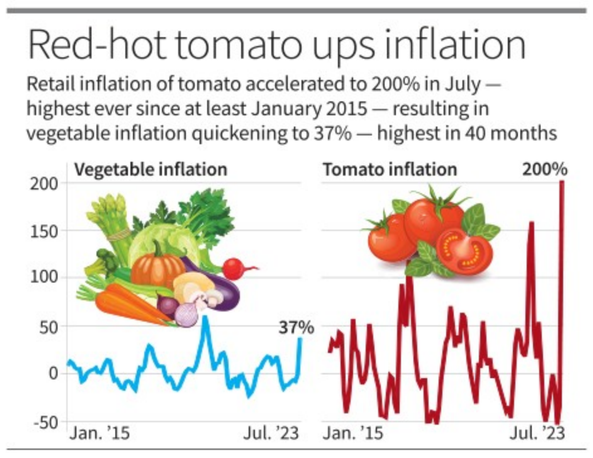
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa asking senior Ministers to be ready to step down from their offices after 30 months to accommodate new faces who worked for the party's electoral victory, the general body meeting called by KPCC on Monday gave indications of a possible reshuffle in the future.

This was endorsed by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. There have been many contenders for ministerial berths, leading to discontent. Mr. Shivakumar also said that heads of boards and corporations would be appointed soon.

The meeting also saw Siddaramaiah announcing that the NEP will be scrapped in the State from the next academic year.

DETAILS ON
» PAGE 8



Retail inflation surges from 4.87% to 7.44%

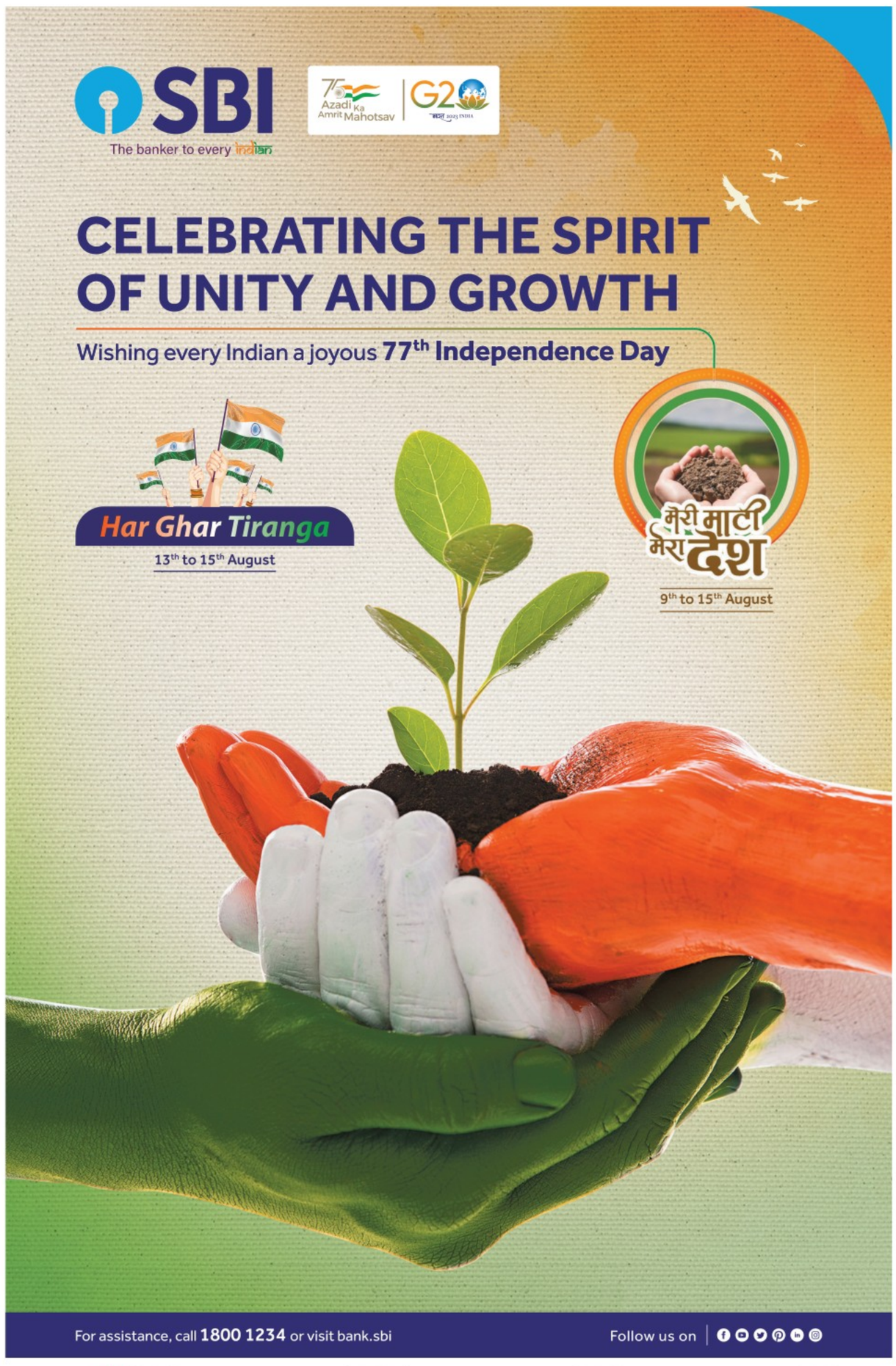
Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation resurged in July to hit 7.44% from 4.87% in June, with consumers facing a sharp 11.5% spike in food prices.

This is the highest pace of retail inflation since April 2022 and the first time since September 2022 that price rise has been over 7%. Vegetable prices soared 37.3%, mainly due to tomato, while cereals and pulses became over 13% costlier, lifting the food bill by over 12.3% for urban consumers, while rural consumers encountered 11% food inflation.

Rural residents, however, faced a higher overall inflation rate of 7.63% in July, as per the National Statistical Office. The Consumer Price Index was up 2.9% from June's levels.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14
EXPORTS SHRINK 15.9%
» PAGE 18



From a fringe player to India's big medal hope — the Prannoy journey

The 31-year-old combines vast experience, skills and indefatigable attitude and has an unbridled zeal and boyish enthusiasm to keep improving; he will fancy his chances in men's singles in the World championships this year and next year's Paris Olympic Games

INTERVIEW

H.S. Prannoy

V.V. Subrahmanyam

For someone who was talented and untiring, H.S. Prannoy remained a fringe player for too long before emerging out of the shadows of the lead performers. He is now India's biggest medal hope at the World championships this year and next year's Paris Olympics.

At 31, Prannoy combines vast experience, skills and indefatigable attitude to put to shade even the younger opponents with his unbridled zeal and boyish enthusiasm to keep improving. He is in the form of his life and could shock the best at Copenhagen when the Worlds begin on August 21.

In a chat with *The Hindu*, Prannoy shared his thoughts on the game and the goals ahead.

Q: How has your campaign been on the international circuit?

A: Honestly, I am having a really good time. The Malaysian Open win was an important one and I am glad I have been consistent in the subsequent tournaments too, beating some top players.

How significant is that triumph when you look ahead, particularly in the run-up to the Olympics?

The Malaysian Open win is definitely a big one as it started the Paris Olympics qualification cycle. It gave me a lot of confidence. I'm in a much better frame of mind and physically too. I hope to keep it going.

What is the big difference you see in yourself now?

There is a lot of understanding in what needs to be done to come up with better displays. Like planning the training sessions and taking a critical look at the performances in the previous tournaments. I believe a lot of things are being put in the right place.

What is the biggest challenge you are facing now given the reputation you have earned in the last one year after defeating the big guns easily on your day?

There is an intense fight within myself to be at my best. In a way, there is a challenge within myself, a serious introspection going on always, proving myself too. I repeat there has been greater focus on my game, fitness and mental aspect in the last three years. I do believe that experience is my strong point apart from understanding my body and dealing with the pain. I believe in the process even though the results might not be immediate.

Is this the best phase of your career?

Probably yes. I never played in two 500 Super Series finals in one year. I hope to continue to perform consistently. Yes, I am putting in a lot of effort, thanks to my support staff who have been doing a great job for me at the back-end.

Is there a feeling that you are slowly but surely inching towards realising any athlete's dream of winning an Olympic medal?

I think it is too early to think of an Olympics medal. Maybe, I can answer this question six to eight months from now. But before that, there are many important events and I want to win more titles for sure. There are a few who have to work very hard to get them. I come in the second slot. Things don't come that easily to me. I always have to work hard to get recognition. But, I am pretty satisfied with the way things are going now.

What kind of planning are you into in the run-up to the Olympic Games given that you are now World No. 9?

Nothing specific. Take each tournament as it comes, prepare accordingly. Of course, we have to be very selective in playing some tournaments to peak at the right time. That is being taken care of by our support staff and Gopi Sir. I am lucky to have such backing.

Any areas of concern?

The effort is to keep improving and give my best.

On current form, you are arguably the best medal hope for India in men's singles. What does it mean?

It is nice to be the country's No.1 player (men's singles). This is the result of a lot of hard work. I feel breaking into the top-10 in the world is a very good achievement. I will try to better my previous best of No. 7 ranking.

Are you feeling the pressure of expectations now?

They will be there always. Especially when you are having a good run. But, my focus is on consistency.

After an impressive Asian and Australian circuit, you will be heading to the World Championships. How do you rate your chances?

The World championships will be slightly tougher. I have just competed in the Asian circuit and have had only two weeks' time to prepare. So, the Worlds are going to be a different kind of challenge.

As per the draw, you will be running into Viktor Axelsen in the quarterfinals. Having defeated him twice in recent times, how do you rate him and your chances of winning against him again?

It's too early to talk about the likely face-off with Viktor. Before that I have to beat some real good players and then think of it. As I said, I will be taking any tournament match-by-match and not invite pressure by thinking too far and too much.

If you are asked to name three defining moments of your career, what would they be?

The biggest will obviously be winning the Thomas Cup, which India has never won. The silver in the 2010 Youth Olympics was a huge moment before the Thomas Cup triumph. And, of course, the Malaysian Open triumph this May figures third in this list for obvious reasons.

THE GIST

- Prannoy rates his Malaysian Open win as a big one as it started the Paris Olympics qualification cycle
- The shuttler feels that he is in a much better frame of mind now
- The 31-year-old says that things don't come that easily to him and he has to work hard to get recognition

GAME TIME

Test your knowledge on post-independence, non-cricketing Indian sporting achievements

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
In 1958, who was crowned Independent India's first individual World champion and in which sport?

QUESTION 2
Mihir Sen and Arati Saha were the first Indian (and Asian) man and woman to achieve what feat of endurance in 1958 and 1959 respectively?

QUESTION 3
If Manuel Aaron was the the country's first International Master in chess, who was the second to get the title?

QUESTION 4
At which Asian Championships did the legendary P.T. Usha create history by winning five gold medals?

QUESTION 5
Apart from champion shuttler P.V. Sindhu, who holds the distinction of winning two Question consecutive Olympic medals and in which sport?

QUESTION 6
The Indian men's hockey team has won a silver and three bronze medals, to go with five golds, at the Olympic Games held after the nation's independence. In which editions did it win bronze?

QUESTION 7
Which legendary father-son pair has the rare honour of winning the junior singles title at The Championships in Wimbledon?

QUESTION 8
Who was the first Indian sportsperson to be honoured with the country's second-highest civilian award, the Padma Vibhushan, in 2008?

QUESTION 9
Who remains the only footballer to be awarded the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna, the nation's highest sporting honour?

QUESTION 10
In which sport did Raghubir Singh and Rupinder Singh Brar claim gold at the 1982 Asiad held in New Delhi?

QUESTION 11
In which sport did Jeremy Bujakowski achieve the distinction of being a two-time Olympian (1964 and 1968) for India?

QUESTION 12
Whose autobiography is titled *A Shot at History*?

QUESTION 13
In which sport did Murlikant Petkar win India's first Paralympics gold in Heidelberg, West Germany in 1972?

QUESTION 14
Which Asian Games bronze medallist, whose life was cut short in a road accident in Italy, has an indoor stadium dedicated at him at Montichiari in that European nation.

Question 15: Name this first Indian to win medals in his sport both at the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games. And in which sport? FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

THE ANSWERS

1. Wilson Jones in billiards, 2. Cross the English Channel, 3. V. Ravikumar, 4. 1985 at Jakarta, 5. Sushil Kumar in wrestling, 6. Silver in 1960 and bronze in 1968, 1972 and 2020, 7. Ramanathan Krishnan and Ramesh Krishnan, 8. Viswanathan Anand, 9. Sunil Chhetri (2021), 10. Equestrian, 11. Alpine skiiing, 12. Abhinav Bindra, 13. Swimming, 14. Jimmy George, 15. Gymnast Ashish Kumar.

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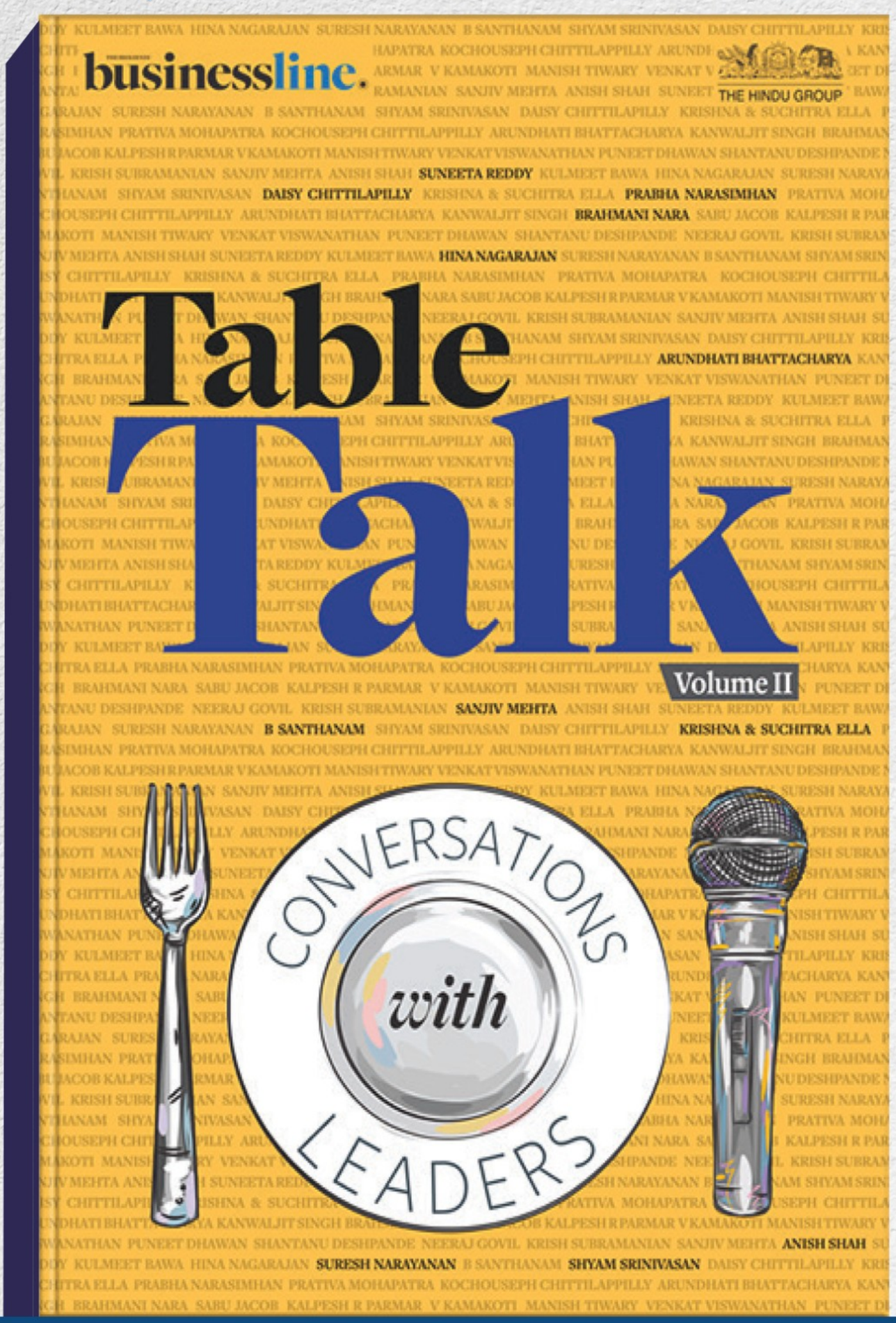

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Happy 76th year of
Independence day
A Space Marketing Feature

Independence Day celebrations at various places across the City today

Independence Day will be celebrated on Tuesday at various places across the city. This August 15 marks India's 76th year of Independence. The State government's event will take place at Field Marshal Manek Shaw Parade Ground on Mahatma Gandhi Road which will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at 9 a.m.

Among the other major events of the day, Chief Justice of High Court of Karnataka, Justice Prasanna B. Varale will unfurl the flag on the High Court premises at 9 a.m. Vice Chancellor of RGUHS, Dr. M.K. Ramesh will unfurl the flag at RGUHS premises in Jayanagar 4th T Block at 9 a.m. Vice Chancellor of University of Agricultural Sciences Bangalore will unfurl the flag at the UAS-B premises at its GKVK campus at 8.50 p.m. Bengaluru City University Vice Chancellor will unfurl the flag at Central College premises on Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, at 9 a.m.

Book release

Sapna Book House on the occasion of Independence Day is releasing five books - Kannada Yuvajanategе Kaideevige written by Dr. K. Muralidhara, and Ra. Nam Chandrashekar, Mayannara Maayanagari by Dr. D.V. Guruprasad, Bharatada Swatantrakke horaadida 35 ditta Mahileyaru, translated by Dr. P. Narayanaswamy, Tiruvugala Arivu by Jayaprakash Nagatihalli and Urida Uuru by S.K. Ramesh. The programme will be held on the Sapna Book House premises in Gandhinagar at 11 a.m.

Dr. Go Ru. Channabasappa, Chairman, Publishing Committee, Bharat Scounts and Gudies, Karnataka, will unfurl the flag at the event organized by Bharat Scouts and Guides, Karnataka. Vice President of Bharat Scouts and Guides, Karnataka, Kondajji B. Shanmukhappa will be the chief guest. The programme will be held on the State's Central Office on Palace Road at 9 a.m.

At college

Jyothi Nivas College celebrated India Independence on its premises in Koramangala a day in advance on August 14. Students bedecked in traditional attire fostered a sense of national pride. Retd. Air Marshal H.B. Rajaram was the chief guest and Flight Lieutenant Rao Tejaswi Ranga, was the guest of honour. Embracing the Clean Bengaluru initiative, the college on the occasion honoured BBMP's Pourakaramikas with token of appreciation led by the Principal, Dr. Sr. Mary Louisa.

Flight Lieutenant Rao Tejaswi Ranga, also amumna of the college, in her address, spoke of unity, sacrifice and the democratic values of the nation that built it from the ground up. She stressed on the importance of work, persevere towards the collective dreams and contribute to our country and building its power.

Chief guest, Retd. Air Marshal H.B. Rajaram in his speech said that the value of the individual and failure is not the end of an individual, it is a way to be truly free and students should learn from the mistakes they may make. JNC during the event honoured BBMP's Pourakarmikas.

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Is antimicrobial resistance being made worse by air pollution?

Air laden with unhealthy amounts of PM2.5 can become a highway for antibiotic-resistant bacteria and genes. More than 7.3 billion people worldwide – and 93% of India's population – are exposed to unsafe average levels of PM2.5. These particles can spread on fast winds, evaporated water, and dust

Saumya Kalia

With every 1% rise in PM2.5 pollution, AMR increased 0.5-1.9%. THE HINDU

Tiny, invisible particles, 30-times smaller than the breadth of a human hair, wreak havoc on more than 7.5 billion people worldwide. This particulate matter, called PM2.5, could drive the world's next public health threat - antimicrobial resistance (AMR), when disease-causing bacteria become immune to the drugs that could once destroy them, according to a new analysis published in *The Lancet Planetary Journal*.

The authors - a group of experts - found that every 10% rise in air pollution was correlated with an AMR increase of 1.1% across countries and continents.

Researchers have been sounding the alarm over AMR, a scourge that has already killed more people worldwide than malaria or HIV/AIDS, a 2019 survey found. It's been directly responsible for 1.27 million deaths and associated with an estimated 4.95 million deaths around the world.

Kamini Walia, a senior Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) scientist warned last year that AMR "has the potential of taking the form of a pandemic in the near future." There's evidence that this pandemic-in-waiting has been shaped by the injudicious use of antibiotics, poor sanitation facilities, high burden of disease, and poor public-health infrastructure, among other reasons.

The new analysis is "the first to show how air pollution affects antibiotic resistance globally" - findings that have "substantial policy and environmental implications by presenting a new pathway to combat clinical antibiotic resistance by controlling environmental pollution", per the article.

The threat of AMR

Ciprofloxacin, an antibiotic, was once used to treat urinary tract infections caused by *Escherichia coli*, which is among the most common bacteria in India. *E. coli's* resistance to ciprofloxacin now varies from 8.4% to 92.9%, per the World Health Organisation.

Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) has also rendered two potent TB drugs less effective. Patients with this form of the disease today have less than a 60% chance of recovery.

Changes in bacteria cause the drugs used to beat them to become less effective. In the absence of the right drug, a patient may never recover from an infection. AMR thus adds to the disease burden of the nation.

It also risks widening healthcare inequities, where patients contend with delayed recovery and extended hospitalisation. "It puts patients undergoing major surgeries and treatments, such as chemotherapy, at a greater risk. Patients often recover from advanced medical procedures but succumb to untreatable infections," former WHO Chief Scientist Sowmya Swaminathan wrote in *The Hindu*.

Data show that India leads the world in antibiotic use. The indiscriminate use of antibiotics among people and animals, poor hygiene and sanitation, and lack of awareness have fueled this rise, experts note. The COVID-19 pandemic only exacerbated these issues, together with a surge in the sales of antibiotics to treat bronchitis and pneumonia.

The higher circulation of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and antibiotic-resistance genes (ARGs) across humans, animals, and environments also creates new transmission pathways. A 2019 study found India's rivers and lakes to be concentrated with antimicrobial-resistant bacteria. Pharmaceutical wastewater and untreated effluents from hospitals were the root causes.

AMR is a classic "tragedy of the commons," infectious diseases consultant V. Ramasubramanian told *The Hindu* earlier.

What did the analysis show?

The new analysis focused on the environmental dissemination of ARGs. With every 1% rise in PM2.5 pollution, AMR increased 0.5-1.9% depending on the pathogen, a link that has intensified over time. The researchers wrote that this airborne spread could have resulted in premature deaths in India and China, and other population-dense countries. Some 18.2 million years of life could have been lost this way in 2018 worldwide, resulting in an economic loss of $395 billion (more than Pakistan's GDP).

Global AMR is driven by multiple forces: one is the "effect derived from the environment, which is poorly understood in relation to antibiotic resistance". The researchers collected data from 116 countries spanning almost two decades and looked for a link between rising PM2.5 levels and AMR. They also analysed other predictors, including sanitation services, population, and education.

The final dataset included nine pathogens - *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Escherichia coli*, *Enterobacter aerogenes or E cloacae*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, and *Enterococcus faecium* - plus 43 antibiotic agents.

The researchers recognised air as a "direct pathway and key vector for disseminating antibiotic resistance".

For instance, PM2.5 emissions from burning firewood in homes for cooking or heating could carry bacteria and antibiotic-resistant genes, be transmitted over long distances, and eventually be inhaled by individuals. PM2.5 is known to penetrate the body's defences and enter the bloodstream and lungs - a symptom associated with chronic conditions such as cancer, heart disease, and asthma.

The analysis found that the contribution of PM2.5 to AMR was found to be *greater* than that of antibiotic use or due to drinking water.

However, how airborne pollutants affect AMR is "still unclear". The analysis couldn't discern a cause-and-effect relationship and asked for "more medical evidence ... to verify this occurrence." Other limitations of the analysis include limited data provided by countries and the overlapping impacts of social, economic, and environmental factors.

The air-AMR connection

Antibiotic-resistant bacteria and genes travel through food, soil, water, air, and direct contact with sources such as animals. The hypothesis is that ARGs, when emitted from, say, hospitals or livestock farms, could latch on to pollutant particles. Such particles have been found to contain "diverse antibiotic-resistant bacteria and antibiotic-resistance genes, which are transferred between environments and directly inhaled by humans, causing respiratory-tract injury and infection."

When suspended in the environment or breathed in, ARGs could enter the bacteria found in the human body and bolster their resistance.

Air laden with unhealthy amounts of PM2.5 can thus become a highway for transporting antibiotic-resistant bacteria and ARGs. More than 7.3 billion people globally - and 93% of India's population - are exposed to unsafe average levels of PM2.5. These particles can spread on fast winds, evaporated water, and dust. ARGs are also more abundant in urban air particles than in sediment, soil or rivers, the analysis found.

> Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis has rendered two potent TB drugs less effective. Patients with this form of the disease today have less than a 60% chance of recovery

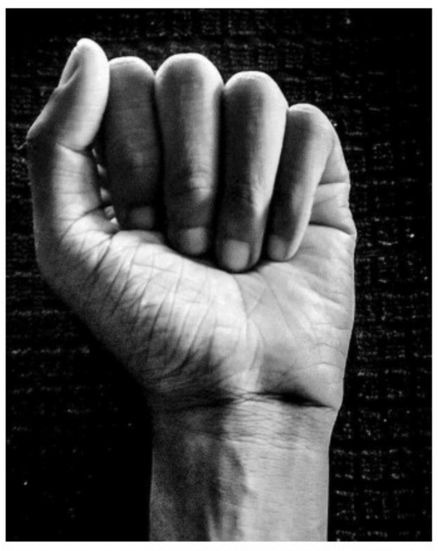
Implications for AMR policy

AMR is not new. The present focus on environmental factors, however, illustrates that in the fight against antimicrobial-resistant bacteria, we need to address air pollution if we are to plug one hole, while measures to combat other drivers continue. Antibiotic use in itself is expected to rapidly increase in low- and middle-income countries like India by 2050.

In 2017, India released a National Action Plan to address AMR, but sources told *The Hindu* earlier that most States are yet to devise a region-specific framework to address local factors affecting AMR.

The analysis hailed China's case as instructive. In the 2010s, China implemented restrictions on antibiotic sales and began to tackle air pollution on a war footing. In the next seven years, air pollution declined as much as it had in the U.S. in three decades.

Ultimately, the country reaped gains against the twin challenges of PM2.5 and AMR - a trend researchers predict is likely to endure.



Our planet itself is a lefty, rotating from west to east. UNSPLASH

Celebrating lefties and nature's unpredictable orientations

Qudsia Gani

Handedness is a tendency to prefer the use of one hand over the year. Augsut 13 was International Left-handers' Day, observed to appreciate left-handedness in a world numerically dominated by righties.

Our planet itself is a lefty, rotating from west to east. So is the solar system. According to a 2011 study, there are more left-handed spiral galaxies than their right-handed counterparts.

There is left-handedness within ourselves as well. Amino acids, the basic building blocks of life, are left-handed.

As a physicist, my interest as a physicist in handedness lies elsewhere. Left and right are relative orientations in space and are flipped by a mirror. Other than that, one side isn't implicitly more or less special.

One of the fundamental forces of nature known as the weak nuclear force is responsible for radioactive decay and it breaks left-right symmetry

But nature doesn't have equal preferences for both configurations. For example, subatomic particles known as neutrinos are left-handed. This means a neutrino's spin is aligned parallel to but in the opposite direction of its momentum. Neutrinos are the second most abundant particle in the universe (after photons) and they could just as well have been right-handed - yet they aren't.

For another, there are three fundamental forces in nature other than gravitation. Of these, the strong force operates between protons and neutrons and the electromagnetic force, between charged particles. They are both left-right symmetric: they obey the law of parity conservation. But there is a fourth force, known as the weak nuclear force (responsible for radioactive decay), and it breaks left-right symmetry.

The Chinese-American physicist Chien-Shiung Wu confirmed in an experiment in 1956 that the weak force does not conserve parity. After she published her findings, her colleagues Chen-Ning Yang and Tsung-Dao Lee received the Nobel Prize for physics in 1957 for working out the theory of the violation. Their attempts to have her nominated for her own Nobel Prize were in vain.

That the weak nuclear force defies parity symmetry was an important moment in the history of physics. Among other consequences, the violation gave physicists a way to develop a theory to explain why there is more matter than antimatter in the universe today though both should have been created in equal amounts after the Big Bang.

Taken together, physicists are very curious about why nature as we know it has any preference for one handedness over the other. Where does this preference come from? There are no ready answers but researchers are pursuing them at both the molecular and the astronomical scales.

Qudsia Gani is an assistant professor in the Department of Physics, Government College for Women, Srinagar.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Want to be tickled pink out of the blue?

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

X is a dye named for a country, associated with the name of a revolt in that country in 1859, and whose colour is popularly associated today with denim jeans. Name X.

QUESTION 2

Name the natural reddish-purple dye secreted as a mucus by molluscs of the family Muricidae. Until the 15th century, producing meaningful quantities of the dye required thousands of snails and considerable human labour. So the dye was expensive and associated with the elite.

QUESTION 3

In ancient India, Greece, and Mesopotamia, among other civilisations, this dye was prized for its strong crimson hue. It was made from the desiccated dead bodies of certain scale insects. The name of the dye comes from the Sanskrit for "made by worms". Name it.

QUESTION 4

The same family of plants that produce coffee, Rubiaceae, include the genus Rubia, whose colloquial name is Q. A dye extracted from Rubia plants' roots imparts a red colour. In 1869, this dye became the first natural dye to be synthesised in the lab. Name Q.

QUESTION 5

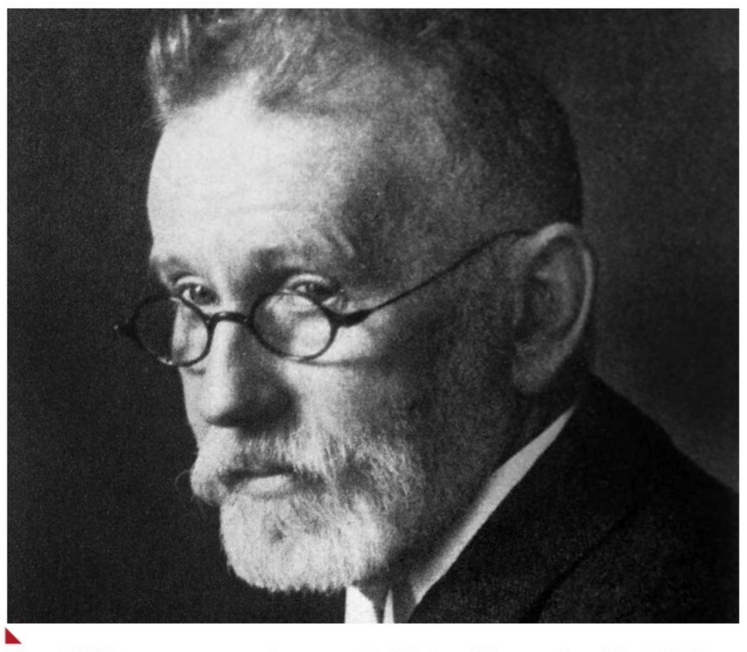
_____ __ is a fluorescent dye: it absorbs some light and re-emits it at a lower frequency. So by adding it to water, one can track the water's flow. It's also used in fluorescence microscopy and can be used to produce laser light. Fill in the blanks.

Answers to August 10 quiz:

1. What the conjunctiva is – **Ans: b) Transparent membrane that lines the eyelid and eyeball**
2. Two types of conjunctivitis that can spread – **Ans: Bacterial and viral**
3. What you must do to become infected by conjunctivitis from someone else – **Ans: Touch**
4. Which option is not a symptom of conjunctivitis – **Ans: c) Red bump that forms on/inside the eyelid**
5. How long is conjunctivitis contagious – **Ans: 48 hours after starting antibiotics (bacterial) or as long as there are symptoms (viral)**

Visual: **Viral conjunctivitis**

First contact: Rajat Bhat | Sanjib Mondal | Pooja Roy | Dishanta Adhikari | Pratibha Behera



Visual: This is _____ _____, known as the "father of immunology". In 1891, he identified a particular dye, methylene blue, to be a potential treatment for malaria. Name him. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

TUESDAY
August 15, 2023

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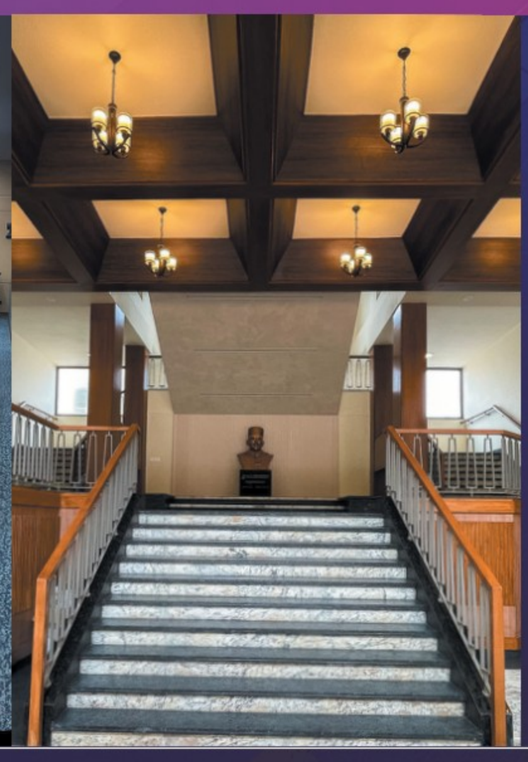

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Rupee's value against the dollar at an all-time low

83.11 The rupee depreciated 29 paise to settle at an all-time low against the U.S. dollar on Monday, weighed down by firm crude oil prices in the international markets. PTI

The import of palm oil to India increased in the month of July

59 in percentage. It was the highest in seven months, as refiners increased buying after its discount to rival edible oils widened. Edible oil imports rose to a record 1.76 million tonnes in July. REUTERS

Fatalities due to heavy rain in Himachal Pradesh

51 Rains wreaked havoc in Himachal Pradesh, triggering landslides that damaged homes and buried devotees in the rubble of a temple. Fourteen bodies were recovered from the sites of two landslides. PTI

Wholesale price inflation negative for a fourth month

-1.36 WPI inflation remained negative, even though prices of food items skyrocketed. The WPI inflation in food articles jumped 14.25% in July as against 1.32% in June. PTI

The value of the Russian ruble against the dollar

101 The ruble has hit its lowest value since the early weeks of the Ukraine war as sanctions weigh on energy exports and weaken demand for the currency. AP

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The new Bills to overhaul criminal laws

Why are the existing criminal laws being changed? What are the changes and additions in the proposed Bills? Has the offence of sedition been repealed? What was the controversy surrounding the criminal law reforms committee?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

The Centre on August 11 introduced three new Bills in the Lok Sabha that propose a complete overhaul of the country's criminal justice system. The Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860 is set to be replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973 will be replaced by the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 whereas the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, will be replaced by the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023. "From 1860 to 2023, the country's criminal justice system functioned as per the laws made by the British. With these three laws there will be a major change in the criminal justice system in the country", Home Minister Amit Shah said while introducing the three new legislations. The Bills have been referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee for reveiw and recommendations.

What has been the process?

The process to bring about amendments in criminal laws has been in the pipeline for a while. Former Law Minister Kiren Rijiju apprised the Rajya Sabha last year that the government has initiated the process of amendment to laws such as IPC, CrPC and the Indian Evidence Act in consultation with all stakeholders.

It was also pointed out that the Parliamentary Standing Committee in its 111th and 128th reports had highlighted the need for reform in criminal laws through the enactment of a comprehensive legislation instead of piecemeal amendments in existing acts.

What was the mandate of the criminal law reforms committee?

The Ministry of Home Affairs through a notification dated May 4, 2020, constituted a committee headed by Prof. (Dr.) Ranbir Singh, former Vice Chancellor of National Law University (NLU), Delhi to review the three codes of criminal law. The other members of the committee included – G.S. Bajpai (Registrar, National Law University Delhi), Balraj Chauhan (first Vice-Chancellor, Dharmashastra National Law University, Jabalpur), Mahesh Jethmalani (senior advocate, Supreme Court) and G.P. Thareja (former district and session judge, Delhi).

The mandate of the committee was to 'recommend reforms in the criminal laws of the country in a principled, effective and efficient manner, which ensures the safety and security of the individual, the community and the nation; and which prioritises the constitutional values of justice, dignity and the inherent worth of the individual,' per the committee website. In July 2020, the committee invited comments from stakeholders via an extensive questionnaire. Subsequently, on February 27, 2022, the committee submitted its recommendations on the criminal law amendments.

However, the committee came under attack for its lack of diversity and the absence of transparency in its functioning. In a scathing letter, former Supreme Court and High Court judges, senior lawyers, and academicians questioned the lack of diversity in the all-male committee both in terms of social identity as well as professional background and experience. Clarifications were also sought on whether the committee would be functioning independently of the MHA.

Responding to the mounting criticism, Prof. Ranbir Singh subsequently clarified that while the structural part of the committee's composition lies with the MHA, it would function in a completely autonomous manner. He stated that the committee "has remarkable diversity and competence in professional experience, affiliations, and, scholarship" and is guided by progressive and humane thinking in the realm of criminal law.

A new start: Home Minister Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha on the introduction of the three Bills for revamping criminal laws on August 11. ANI

Has the offence of sedition been repealed?

Home Minister Amit Shah said in the Lok Sabha that the new Bill on IPC repeals the offence of sedition under Section 124A of the IPC. However, it has been replaced by another section targeting speech, writing or any form of communication that incites separatist and subversive activities. Part VII of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill is titled 'Of Offences against the State', under which Section 150 criminalises 'acts endangering sovereignty unity and integrity of India.'

It reads: 'Whoever, purposely or knowingly, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or by electronic communication or by use of financial mean, or otherwise, excites or attempts to excite, secession or armed rebellion or subversive activities, or encourages feelings of separatist activities or endangers sovereignty or unity and integrity of India; or indulges in or commits any such act shall be punished with imprisonment for life or with imprisonment which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.'

The explanation accompanying it is an incomplete sentence, but generally repeats the clarification found in Section 124A that comments expressing disapprobation of the measures or actions of the Government with a view of getting them altered by lawful means would not come under it. Section 150 also seeks to penalise aiding "subversive activities or those encouraging 'feelings of separatist activities" through financial means.

The main difference between the existing offence of sedition and the proposed section is that there is no reference now to "disaffection against the government", or bringing it under hatred and contempt. While the punishment under Section 124A is either life imprisonment or three years in jail, Section 150 enhances the alternative punishment to seven years.

What are key highlights of the Bills?

The *Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023* seeks to replace the IPC by repealing 22 of its provisions, proposes changes to 175 existing provisions and introduces eight new sections. It contains a total of 356 provisions.

The punishment for all types of gang rape will now include 20 years of imprisonment or life imprisonment. The punishment for the rape of a minor will include imposition of the death penalty. Various offences have also been made gender neutral.

Notably, for the first time capital punishment has been introduced for the offence of mob lynching apart from the offence being made punishable with seven years of imprisonment or life imprisonment.

The Bill also criminalises sexual intercourse under the false pretext of marriage or by deceitful means. It is followed by an explanation stipulating that 'deceitful means' will include the false promise of employment or promotion, inducement or marrying after suppressing one's identity. A maximum of 10-year imprisonment has been proposed for the offence. This is a notable change since IPC does not have an explicit clause dealing with instances of sexual intercourse based on a false promise of marriage. Such cases are typically covered under Section 90 of the IPC, where consent obtained through a 'misconception of fact' is deemed invalid. The accused in such cases can be charged under Section 375 for the offence of rape.

The provision for the offence of adultery has also been omitted. This is in line with the Supreme Court's ruling in 2018 in the case of *Joseph Shine versus Union of India*, where Section 497 of the IPC, which criminalised adultery, was held to be unconstitutional.

Similarly, pursuant to the Supreme Court's unanimous reading down of Section 377 of the IPC as far as it criminalised same-sex relations between consenting adults in *Navtej Singh Johar versus Union of India* (2018), the proposed legislation does not include any punishment for 'unnatural sexual offences against men.'

The provision legalising marital rape has however been retained. Exception 2 to Section 63 (which defines the offence of rape) reads – 'Sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under eighteen years of age, is not rape.' A batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of Exception 2 to Section 375 of the IPC, which provides an exception to non-consensual matrimonial sex from the offence of rape, is currently pending adjudication before the Supreme Court.

The *Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill, 2023* will replace the CrPC by repealing nine of its provisions. It proposes changes to 160 provisions and introduces nine new provisions. It contains a total of 533 sections.

A formal provision (Section 230) has been introduced to ensure that a copy of the FIR is made available to the accused and the victim free of cost and within fourteen days from the date of production or appearance of the accused. Other changes to expedite the procedure include the facility for an accused person to be examined through electronic means, like video conferencing. Summary trials have been made mandatory for petty and less serious cases. The magisterial system has also been streamlined.

The Indian Evidence Act will be replaced by the *Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023* which proposes changes to 23 provisions and introduces one new provision. It contains 170 sections in total.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill highlights that the Indian Evidence Act has been repealed because it fails to 'address the technological advancement undergone in the country during the last few decades.' The Bill permits the admissibility of an electronic or digital record as evidence and will have legal validity as documentary evidence. The ambit of what constitutes secondary evidence has also been expanded to include the following: copies made from the original by mechanical processes, copies made from or compared with the original, counterparts of documents as against the parties who did not execute them and oral accounts of the contents of a document given by some person who has himself seen it.

THE GIST

The Centre on August 11 introduced three new Bills in the Lok Sabha that propose a complete overhaul of the country's criminal justice system. The Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860 is set to be replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973 will be replaced by the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 whereas the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, will be replaced by the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023.

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The process to bring about amendments in criminal laws has been in the pipeline for a while. The Parliamentary Standing Committee in its 111th and 128th reports had highlighted the need for reform in criminal laws through the enactment of a comprehensive legislation instead of piecemeal amendments in existing acts.

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Businessman loses ₹56 lakh to cyber criminals claiming to be from the U.K.

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

A 37-year-old businessman in Bengaluru lost ₹56 lakh to a deal concocted by cyber criminals claiming to be based in the United Kingdom (U.K.). An FIR was registered at South East CEN police station.

About two months ago, a person claiming to be Johnson contacted the businessman with a request to purchase and export a herbal extract, used by pharmaceutical companies to manufacture drugs used for cancer treatment, from a company based in India.

Johnson claimed to be calling from the U.K. He shared the contact number of a person, identified as Nikitha Kumar, associated with an Indian company.

The businessman initially declined the offer telling Johnson to deal directly with the Indian company. Johnson explained that dealing directly would make the product expensive for him and claimed that each litre of the extract costs ₹1,00,450. Johnson offered a good profit margin to supply 250 litres.

Later, another man identified as Edward called the businessman. Both the men spoke with a U.K. accent, said the businessman. The duo shared the link of their company website, which led the businessman to believe that they were genuine customers.

Edward mailed a London-to-Delhi ticket bearing the name of a person, and told the businessman that a representative of the company would be arriving to test the samples. The businessman contacted Nikitha and asked her to send a 1-litre sample. The woman sent a sample to Bengaluru for which the businessman paid ₹1 lakh.

As the businessman was in Andhra Pradesh and he had to fly to Delhi from there, he requested Nikitha to send another sample to a Delhi address, for which he made another payment.

The businessman met the U.K. firm representative at a private hotel in Delhi. After testing the sample, the representative gave his approval and placed an order for 250 litres. The businessman called Nikitha to place the order for 60 litres, for which he paid an advance of over ₹30 lakh.

"I told Edward that I can supply only 60 litres, as he did not have the money to place an order for 250 litres. After negotiations, Edward settled for 100 litres," the businessman told *The Hindu*.

Later, he contacted Nikitha to place an order for another 40 litres, for which she demanded an advance. The businessman paid the money. In total, he ended up paying ₹56 lakh.

When the product was not delivered as promised, he called Nikitha, Edward, Johnson, and the company representative, but all their mobile phones were switched off. He filed a complaint on July 28.

Retired sub-inspector arrested for molesting minor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Shivajinagar police arrested a 74-year-old retired sub-inspector for allegedly molesting a seven-year-old girl who was a tenant in his house.

The accused allegedly molested her before the victim raised alarm out of pain. The family members and neighbours rushed the girl to the hospital for treatment before filing the complaint with the police.

The police arrested the accused charging him under the POCSO Act and remanded him to judicial custody.

According to the police, the accused was living with his family and rented out a portion of the house to the family of the victim.

Anxious residents gathered in front of accused's house as the news of assault spread, leading to a tense situation. The police were deployed to monitor law and order.

Man abducted, robbed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 46-year-old businessman in Bengaluru, who was returning home in an autorickshaw, was robbed allegedly by the driver and his associate at R.R. Nagar on the night of August 9. The victim, Sanjay Sinde, took the auto on 80 feet road at Chandra Layout. When the auto reached an isolated spot at Kerekodi in R.R. Nagar, they robbed him of his valuables.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, AUG. 15	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:41
RISE 05:06	SET 18:13
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 16	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:40
RISE 05:56	SET 18:53
THURSDAY, AUG. 17	
RISE 06:08	SET 18:40
RISE 06:44	SET 19:30

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	31	22
Bengaluru	30	21

Bengaluru Today
31°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

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Website: www.apsasc.edu.in
Call for Quotations

Sealed quotations are invited for **Purchase and Install of 16 UPS along with Rack and interlink cables for Computers.** Call for Quotations (also uploaded on website www.apsasc.edu.in for reference) to be collected from school office after payment of ₹100/-(DD in favour APS ASC Centre & College) from 15 Aug 2023 to 21 Aug 2023 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 22 Aug 2023 at 1130 AM.

Presiding Officer
For School Management

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE
AGRAM – POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in
Tender Notice

On behalf of the Chairman, Principal invites sealed tender for purchase and installation of 50 x Thin Client Computers. Tender Enquiry/Form (also uploaded on website for reference) to be collected from school office after payment of ₹1,000/-(DD in favour APS ASC Centre & College) from 15 Aug 2023 to 21 Aug 2023 (1000hrs to 1300hrs). Last date to submit filled tender form is 22 Aug 2023 at 1130 AM.

Presiding Officer
For School Management

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **SMT.SHARADA MYSORE KRISHNAMURTHY** D/o Sri.M.R.Krishna Murthy, residing at No.144, 11th Main, Sector-7, H.S.R.Layout, Bangalore – 560102.

If any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing **Municipal No.13,** PID No.53-162-13, measuring East to West (38+40)/2 ft and North to South 30ft, in all measuring 1170 Sq.ft, together with a building thereon, situated at 1st Cross, Banashankari 1st Stage, 2nd Block, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : 12th Main Road
West by : Property bearing No.8
North by : 1st Cross Road
South by : Property of Krishnaiah Naidu

Sd/- S.F. Goutam Chand
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, our clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owner **SMT. SANTOSH JAIN,** W/o Sri.Bhawarlal Bhandari, residing at No.B-901, Peninsula Heights, 17th Main Road, JP Nagar 2nd Phase, Bengaluru-560078.

Apart from the said Owner, if any persons have any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property, they are hereby requested to file their objections along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying, with the undersigned within **10 (Ten) days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on our clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the vacant residential property bearing **Municipal No.9** (Old No.453/9, KHB Site No.453), **PID No.59-103-9,** measuring East to West 40ft and North to South 60ft, in all measuring 2400 Sq.ft, situated at **6th Cross, West of Kanakapura Road (WKP Road), 7th Block Jayanagar,** Bengaluru, within the administrative jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Ward No.166 (Old Ward No.59) and bounded as follows:

East by : Property bearing No.452
West by : Property bearing No.454
North by : 6th Cross Road
South by : Property bearing No.468

Sd/- BAYYA REDDY. M
For ISHA LAW CHAMBERS LLP
Advocates & Solicitors
No.101, 4th Floor, Sri Manjunatha Complex, 22nd Main Road,
BSK 2nd Stage, Opp : Banashankari BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560070.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Assistant Commissioner and Special Land Acquisition Officer,
(National Highway Zone Kalaburagi)
Yadgiri Sub-division, Mini Vidhansoudha, Yadgiri
Telephone No.08473-253311 e-mail:acyadgir@gmail.com

No.REV/LAQ/NH/01/2023-24, Dated :10-08-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under section 3G and subsection (3) and (4) of the NH act 1956

In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3D of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956), the Ministry Of Road Transport And Highways, Central Government vide India Gazette Notification No. SO. 3278 (E), Dated: 21.07.2023 declared the acquisition of land indicated the schedule here under for building (widening / four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 150 in the stretch of land from Km. 22.600 to Km. 25.170 (Kalaburagi-Wadi-Yadgir Section) in the district of Kalaburagi in the state of Karnataka.

Under the provision of section 3G (1), (2), (3) and (4) of the NH act 1956 (48 of 1956), it is here by informed to the land owners and any interested persons whose lands will be acquired for building of National Highway No. 150 in the stretch of land from Km. 22.600 to Km. 25.170 (Kalaburagi-Wadi-Yadgir Section) in the district of Kalaburagi to appear in person or by an agent of by a legal practioner and submit their claims for determining/awarding compensation, along with copies of the following relevant documents to the following office and to state the nature of their respective intrest in such lands within 07days from the Date of publication of this public notice.

1)Present year RTC, 2) 14 years EC, 3) Mutation copy, 4) Sale/partition/other deeds of title, 5) Tax paid receipts copy, 6) Family Tree, 7) Land Converssion order certified copy, 8) Panchayath Khatha copy and other relevant documents etc.,

If the Land owners of land indicated in the schedule here under fails to submit the aforesaid documents within the stipulated time, in such case Land compensation will be determined based on the available documents in this office. Further it is informed that not to carry any Crop Growing or any Development activity now onwards in the respect of lands specified in the Schedule as per the said 3(D) notification vested in the Central Government, also if Crops any Grown or carried any Development activity will not be considered for Compensation.

Sl. No	Name of the Taluk	Name of the Village	Date & Time	Place of receiving Application and Documents
1	Shahabada	Bhankuru	18.08.2023 11.00AM to 01.00PM	Office of the Assistant Commissioner and Special Land Acquisition Officer, (National Highway Zone Kalaburagi), YadgiriSub-division, Mini Vidhansoudha, Yadgiri
2		Malgatti		

(Dr. Hampanna, KAS)
Assistant Commissioner and
Special Land Acquisition Officer,
(National Highway Zone Kalaburagi),
Yadgiri Sub-division,
Mini Vidhansoudha, Yadgiri

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 21th July, 2023

S.O. 3278(E).- Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, S.O.1892 (E) dated 25.04.2023, published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening / four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No.150, in the stretch of land from Km 22.600 to Km 25.170 (Kalaburagi-Wadi-Yadgir-Kadechur Section) in the district of KALABURAGI in the State of KARNATAKA .

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in "Vishwavani" and "The Hindu" both dated 23.05.2023; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas no objection has been received from any person by the competent authority;

And whereas objections have been received and the same have been considered and disallowed by the competent authority; And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose; And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired, with or without structures, falling within the stretch of land from Km 22.600 to Km 25.170 (Kalaburagi-Wadi-Yadgiri-Kadechur Section) of the National Highway No.150 in the State of Karnataka.

State:KARNATAKA **District: Kalaburagi**

S. No.	Survey Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectares/Square metres	Name of the land owner/ Interested persons
Taluk: Shahabada					**Village: Bhankuru**
1	203	Private	NA/Dry	0.1619 (Hectare)	Vijaykumar S/o Sidramappa Gadballi
2	204	Private	Dry	0.6172 (Hectare)	Indubai W/o Dattatreya Mane Dattatreya S/o Ramesh Mane U/g Indubai W/o Dattatreya Mane HMP Company
3	251	Private	NA/Dry	0.2023 (Hectare)	HMP Company
4	262	Private	NA/Dry	0.0809 (Hectare)	Regional Director, ESI Shahabada
5	263	Private	NA/Dry	0.1518 (Hectare)	Raghunath S/o Gurunath
6	264	Private	NA/Dry	0.5362 (Hectare)	Lakshmibai W/o Kashiram Jwala D/o Gurunath Gangamma W/o Muttuswamy Sheelprakash S/o Shantappa Doddamani Nitinkumar S/o Ramkrishna Gundappa S/o Yashwanth Doddamani Santhosh S/o Yashwanth Doddamani Bhimrao S/o Yashwanth Doddamani Ajithkumar Verma S/o Late Srinivas Verma
Village: Malgatti					
1	30	Private	NA/Dry	0.6071 (Hectare)	Kalkappa S/o Buddappa (Kabjadar: Maheshwar S/o Piddappa Pujari, Rajshekar S/o Chandappa Pagad, and Huliyappa S/o Chandappa Pagad) Vijaykumar S/o Madanlal Verma
2	30	Private	NA/Dry	0.0607 (Hectare)	Ayyappa S/o Shamraya
			Total	**2.4181 (Hectare**	

[F.No.RW/NH/1207/09/2021-22/KNT Zone-III-I/3D
DIP/Yadagiri/98/MCA/2023-24 **Sd/- ABHAY JAIN, Dy.Secy.**

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Mobile : 73495 98454
SUKHI ARCADE, 175, Chickpet Main Road, Bangalore - 560 053.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NIKKITA Thimmaiah D/o P B Thimmaiah, R/at #3549, 3rd Cross, Service Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bengaluru-560008, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nikithaa Thimmaiah vide The Gazette of India No-CG-DL-W-12112022-240227 dt. Nov 12 - Nov 18 2022.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Army No. 17040165A, Rank: CFN, Name: Dharmendra Singh, presently R/a PRTC, J.C.Nagar, B'lore, hereby state that my Son Prince Rathore DOB has been wrongy mentioned as 18.04.2018 in my army documents but his correct DOB is 25.03.2018 vide affidavit dt: 11.08.2023 sworn before Notary Y.R.C, B'lore

I, Army No.14658575N, Rank: HAV Name: Bhisham Kumar Pandey, presently R/a PRTC, J.C.Nagar, B'lore, hereby state that my Son Vaibhav Pandey DOB has been wrongly mentioned as 03.09.2018 in my army documents but his correct DOB is 03.03.2018 vide affidavit dt: 11.08.2023 sworn before Notary Y.R.C, B'lore

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE: Property in Shankarapuram, Bengaluru – a premium locality, near Basavangudi swimming pool and BBMP playground, adjacent to National College, Basavanagudi. Total area 4644 sq.ft, Built up area 1755 sq.ft. Residential bungalow, about 90 years old, Ground floor plus first floor. Clear title. All white transaction. Price: 45,000 / sq.ft Contact: Kumar – mobile 9731109114

PLOTS FOR SALE
Gated Community Approved Layout with Bank Loan
(LP No:201/2020, RERA No:P02400002448)
on Bangalore NH facing
@Shadnagar
Contact
Garimella Revanth
8008 118 134
6303 352 568

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHIVAPURA Nanjappa Uma, W/o Late S V Premanna, R/a Hanikrupa, 4th Cross, 2nd Link Shetty Hally Road, Jayanagara East, Tumkur, Karnataka-572102 have changed my name to S N Uma Premanna vide affidavit dt: 11.08.2023 sworn before Notary G R Ravichandra Reddy, B'luru

I hereby declare that the names K.V. Anantha Rao, K.V. Anantha Padmanabha Rao, Ananta Padmanabha K V and Kallur Vasudev Rao Anantha Rao refer to me and no one else. I K.V. Anantha Rao, do hereby verify and declare that the contents above are true and correct to my knowledge, information and belief.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, AT BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House Building, Raja Bhavan Road, BENGALURU- 560 001
IN THE MATTER OF
O. A No. 534/2022

BETWEEN :
M/S. ICICI Bank Ltd.
...APPLICANT
AND
Teja Transports and others
...DEFENDANTS

DEFENDANT :
1) Teja Transports
A registered proprietary firm having its office at No.236, 1st Floor, Muneshwara Colony, Avalahalli Village, Virgo Nagar Post, Hoskote Taluk, Bangalore 560049. Represented by its Proprietor Krishna Umesh
2) Umesh K
Son of Krishna, Aged about 32 Years, Residing at Muneshwara Layout, Avalahalli, Virgo Nagar, Bangalore- 560049. Phone Nos. 7411665157/ 7760064765.

SUMMONS ISSUED TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES OF 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

WHEREAS the Applicant has instituted an application under section 19 of Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 27,02,568.92/- (Rupees Twenty-Seven Lakhs, Two Thousand and Five Hundred Sixty-Eight Point Ninety-Two Paise Only)** together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.

You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication summons or on **02/01/2024** at **11.00 A.M** in person or by pleader /Advocate of this duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this **08th day of August, 2023.**

By order of the Tribunal
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal-II, Bengaluru

LEGAL NOTICE

Before the President, District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Shimla, H.P.
In Re:-
Complaint No. 70/2019
Pradeep Kumar
Versus
Biswa Mohan Mahapatra
Notice to:-

1.Sh. Biswa Mohan Mahapatra, Non Executant cum Chairman of Payments Corporation of India Registered Office at Unit No. 1904, 19th Floor, Bharti Complex, B-Block, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bangluru, Karnataka (India).

Proclamation Under Order 5 Rule 20 CPC

Whereas in the above noted complaint, it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Commission that the above named Opposite Party is evading service and cannot be served in ordinary process.

Hence, this proclamation is hereby issued against the aforesaid opposite party to appear before this Commission on **14.09.2023.** in person or through some duly authorized advocate or agent for defending the complaint, failing which the matter shall be heard and decided exparte.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Commission, today on this the 08th day of August, 2023.

President
District Consumer Disputes
Seal **Redressal Commission, Shimla, H.P.**

TENDERS

nafed
A Farmers' Cooperative
National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd.
Regd. Office: NAFED House, Siddhartha Enclave, Ring Road, Ashram Chowk, New Delhi-110014
Ph.: EPABX: 011-26340019
Fax: 091-11-26340261
Website: www.nafed-india.com

TENDER NOTICE

NAFED on behalf of Department of Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India, invites the interest for **supply of Imported Masur of Crop Year 2022.**

The detailed tender document will be available on its website **www.nafed-india.com** from **17th August, 2023** onwards. Those interested may visit the Website regularly for the updated information.

Addl. MD (Pulses)
NAFED, New Delhi
Phone No.: 011-26349293
Email:
sunilkumarsingh@nafed-india.com

ABSTRACT

The HAWC detector. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Why are scientists puzzled by the super-bright light from the sun?

After observing gamma rays coming from the sun for six years, researchers at the HAWC observatory in Mexico have found an excess of very high-energy gamma rays. Researchers currently don't have an explanation for this excess

Vasudevan Mukunth

A. Albert et al. (HAWC Collaboration), 'Discovery of Gamma Rays from the Quiescent Sun with HAWC', Physical review letters, August 3, 2023

A stream of energetic particles, called cosmic rays, constantly bombard earth from space. It is kept from reaching the ground by earth's atmosphere and magnetic field. Scientists know that cosmic rays come from the centres of large galaxies and from the explosive deaths of massive stars, or supernovae, based on detectors fit on satellites.

Scientists have also detected cosmic rays coming from the direction of the sun, as the star's magnetic field has deflected them towards the earth. Sometimes, particles in the cosmic rays interact with the sun's atmosphere to produce gamma rays, which scientists study as solar gamma rays.

Theory versus observation mismatch

As products of the solar magnetic field, the composition of the solar atmosphere, and the composition of cosmic rays, scientists can deduce much about these three things by studying the solar gamma rays themselves. Now, a new measurement has indicated to scientists that they may be missing something in this relationship.

Researchers at the High-Altitude Water Cherenkov (HAWC) Observatory, in Puebla, Mexico, reported on August 3 in the journal *Physical Review Letters* that HAWC had detected TeV-energy gamma rays from the sun. TeV stands for tera-electron-volt, or 1 trillion eV, a very high amount of energy for particles. This, the paper's authors write, is the first time such energetic gamma rays have been detected from the sun. HAWC also found more such high-energy gamma rays than expected.

Existing models of the sun's magnetic field and atmosphere cannot account for this 'excess' energy and brightness, and scientists will need to figure out why.

Checking for Cherenkov radiation

"Most ongoing research is focused on trying to correctly model how the cosmic rays interact in the sun's atmosphere," Michigan State University postdoctoral research associate and a corresponding author of the new study Mehr Un Nisa told this writer in an email. "The cosmic-ray composition is relatively well-understood. However, the solar magnetic fields at various distances from the sun's surface and their evolution with time is a complicated problem."

"At low energies – billions to trillions of eV – cosmic rays are affected by the modulation of magnetic fields in the inner solar system as well as the fields in the solar atmosphere, modelling both of which is complicated," postdoctoral scholar at Pennsylvania State University Mukul Bhattacharya told this writer. "At high energies – trillions to quadrillions of eV – the effects of magnetic fields are less prominent but have not been looked at in detail in the literature."

When gamma rays from space smash into atoms in earth's upper atmosphere, they produce a shower of particles that stream downwards, leading to a cascade of more particles. HAWC is located at 4.1 km above sea level, between two dormant volcanoes, to minimise the distance between the shower and its detectors. It consists of 300 tanks, each holding 200 tonnes (or 2 lakh litres) of pure water.

When an energetic charged particle, like an electron, streams into this water, it may move faster than the speed of light in water. This creates radiation known as Cherenkov radiation. The phenomenon is similar to when a jet flies faster through the air than the speed of sound in air: it creates a shockwave that can be heard as a sonic boom. Cherenkov radiation is the "shockwave" created by a charged particle moving through a medium faster than light can in that medium.

Photomultiplier tubes – devices that excel at detecting light – at the bottom of each tank record this radiation and relay it to a computer for analysis.

The sun shadow

The researchers recorded such data for six years, from November 2014 to January 2021. In their analysis, in order to find high-energy gamma rays, they had to subtract the gamma rays that would have reached earth if not for the sun blocking them. These rays are called the "sun shadow".

The team had gone into the study looking specifically for high-energy gamma rays. The Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope can detect gamma rays of up to 200 billion eV, or 200 GeV, and the scientists operating it found that it was recording energies all the way up to the limit. "They nudged us and said, 'We're not seeing a cutoff. You might be able to see something," Nisa said in a statement.

When they subtracted the sun shadow from the recorded data, the researchers found a "gamma ray excess" in the direction of the sun, with such a statistical significance allowing them to claim a discovery. One particular reading went up to 2,600 GeV.

Because of the duration over which they collected data, the researchers found another quirk. The amount of activity on the sun changes in a 22-year cycle: for 11 years, the amount of activity increases, and for the next 11 years it decreases. The researchers found that HAWC detected more high-energy gamma rays when the solar activity was at a minimum, and vice versa – i.e. an inverse relationship.

"During solar minimum, it is easier for cosmic rays to reach the solar surface, which subsequently results in a larger gamma-ray flux," Bhattacharya said. "In terms of theoretical modelling, this anti-correlation can provide us with information on the solar magnetic fields during this phase as well as the energy of optical photons."

A need for a new model?

The researchers also found that beyond around 400 GeV, the number of gamma rays at even higher energies drops rapidly. "We have Fermi measurements up to 200 GeV and HAWC measurements begin above 500 GeV," Nisa explained. "Somewhere in between, the emission spectrum changed its slope".

The task before researchers now is to update existing models or build new ones such that they can explain what we already know about the sun as well as accommodate the new findings.

"The observations at this point hint at multiple energy-dependent components instead of a single mechanism" causing the mismatch, according to Nisa. "Then there is also a small possibility of new physics out there" – in the form of a hitherto undetected particle, for example – "that may manifest itself through solar gamma rays".

But Dibyendu Nandi, head of the Center of Excellence in Space Sciences India, Kolkata, was more reserved: "I don't believe the results indicate any fundamental change is necessary in our models of the solar magnetic cycle or stellar structure," he said. "This has more to do with an inadequate understanding of the complex chain of processes through which TeV [gamma rays] are generated through the interaction of cosmic rays and magnetised plasma in the cosmos."

The authors of the paper concluded with asking for more data. Nisa said the LHAASO facility in China – "a bigger and more sensitive counterpart of HAWC" – could record more TeV-energy gamma rays. The Southern Wide-field Gamma-ray Observatory, to be built in South America, could bridge the energy gap between HAWC and Fermi. To complete the picture, she said, "future NASA probes should be able to add to our MeV-GeV knowledge of the sun".

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Mr. L. Ramakrishna wants to know whether 'more than one' should be followed by a singular verb or a plural verb."

" 'More than one' is plural in meaning, but it takes a singular verb.

More than one person has talked to me about her.

However, if there is a plural noun between 'more' and 'than', then a plural verb is used.

More girls than one were denied admission to the course."

"Sir, several readers would like to know the difference between 'refute' and 'repudiate'."

"When you refute a statement, you try to prove that the statement is not true.

You may not agree with his view, but you can't refute it.

He refuted her arguments.

When you repudiate something, you reject something as 'unworthy of acceptance'.

He repudiated his son.

When you refute something, you try to prove it is wrong; when you repudiate something, you reject it"

"Sir, Mr. R. K, Moorti wants to know whether 'wish you all the very best' is correct."

"It is not wrong. But the usual expression is 'all the best'. Some other expressions to convey good wishes are: All the best, Best of luck, The best of luck, Best wishes."

"Sir, Mr. T. V. Soundararajan wants to know the spelling of 'panic' when it is used as a verb."

"When it is used as a verb, it is spelt 'panick'.

She panicked.

Also when it is used as an adjective, the word is spelled with a Y.

He is panicky.

A person is panicky when he is in a state of panic or when he is 'easily affected by panic'."

"Sir, what is the meaning of the idiom 'I have other fish to fry'."

"It means 'I am busy at the moment. I don't have time now to attend to other things'. The idiom is used when you want to tell another that you are too busy to do what she/he is asking you to do.

You want me to draft a letter now? I am sorry. I have other fish to fry."

"Sir, Ms. A. S. Pandit, Srinagar, wants to know how to use the word 'shun'."

" 'Shun' means 'to avoid, keep clear of, from motives of dislike, caution, etc'.

She shuns company.

Almost everyone seeks publicity but he shuns it.

When you shun a person, you move away from him. The word 'shunt' is a corruption of the word 'shun'. A train is said to 'shunt' when it turns aside to let another pass. When you shunt a train, you move it to a 'side track to clear the line for more important traffic'.

The passenger train is being shunted as an Express train is expected.

When 'shunt' is used figuratively, it means 'to lay aside (a project), leave a person inactive'.

The proposal has been shunted as the boss isn't very enthusiastic about it."

(Published in The Hindu on January 3, 1989)

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Test your knowledge on events and people connected with August 15, the date on which India got her independence in 1947

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

Which Asian countries celebrate their independence from Japan on this date two years before India became free?

QUESTION 2

On this date in 1534, who along with six classmates took the initial vows, leading to the creation of the Society of Jesus in September 1540?

QUESTION 3

Name the famous amusement park and gardens in Copenhagen, the third-oldest operating amusement park in the world, that opened its doors on this date 180 years ago.

QUESTION 4

In 1914, SS Ancon, an American cargo ship, created history on this date by officially becoming the first vessel to sail through which famous passageway?

QUESTION 5

On August 15, 1975, the founding father of a nation was killed along with most members of his family. Name the individual and the nation.

QUESTION 6

What is the 'Gyokuon-hoso' and how is it connected to August 15?

Visual question:

Name this famous writer-poet, known for works like *Ivanhoe* and *The Lady of the Lake*, born on August 15 at Edinburgh in 1771. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The title conferred by the Mughals on Nawab Muhammad Ali of Arcot. **Ans: Wallajah**

2. The area in Madras which was developed to accomodate the growing population of the city against the owner's wishes. **Ans: Chintadripet**

3. This event was started by by S. Muthiah, Vincent D'Souza and Sashi Nair. **Ans: The Madras Day celebrations**

4. At this point in Chennai, one would see the "0" KM to Chennai mark. **Ans: Muthuswamy bridge near Madras Medical College**

5. The first 'sister city' of Madras. **Ans: Volgograd, Russia, 1966**

6. This area in Chennai is named after this apostle of Christ. **Ans: Royapuram, taken from Ray-appan, the local name of St. Peter the apostle**

Visual: This festival involves the grand chariot procession of deities. **Ans: Arupathimoovar**

Early Bird: V. Siddhartha

Word of the day

Bedraggled:
limp and soiled as if dragged in the mud; in deplorable condition

Synonyms: broken-down, derelict, dilapidated, tumble-down, ramshackle

Usage: *Church street has a row of bedraggled homes.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/bedraggledpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /bɪˈdɹægl̩d/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Carcasses of stray dogs found in R.R. Nagar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The R.R. Nagar police recovered three highly decomposed carcasses of stray dogs which were suspected to have been poisoned on Sunday. The incident came to light when animals rights activists received an alert and they went to the spot near the Shanmuga temple premises and found the carcasses.

Based on a complaint, the police registered a case against unknown people charging them under Section 428 (killing, poisoning, maiming or rendering useless any animals) of the IPC for further investigation.

The samples were sent to the Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals for further analysis to ascertain the exact cause of death. Initial probe reveal that the stray dogs from the same area were suspected to be poisoned. Many carcasses could not be retrieved as they were washed away owing to heavy rains.

The carcasses were wrapped in plastic and polythene bags and some of them were found tied with hands and legs indicating that they were tortured to death, an animal activist said. This is not the first incident of mass killing of stray dogs reported in the city. In April last year, the Parappana Agrahara police registered an FIR against unknown persons for poisoning 10 stray dogs living outside an apartment complex at Rayasandra.

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VIJAY PRAKASH | PRIYANKA BARVE

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Shikhar Naad Qureshi (Djembe & Percussions)
Ajay Joglekar (Harmoniume)
Sridhar parthasarathy (Mridumgam)
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Neerja Apte (Compere)

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- Management, HCL Technologies Ltd

HCLTech

ಬೃಹತ್ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಎನ್.ಆರ್. ಚೌಕ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 002.

ಕ್ರಾಂತಿವೀರ ಸಂಗೊಳ್ಳಿ ರಾಯಣ್ಣರವರ
226ನೇ ಜಯಂತ್ಯೋತ್ಸವ ಅಂಗವಾಗಿ

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ಪ್ರತಿಮೆಗೆ ಗೌರವ ಸಮರ್ಪಣೆ

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15.08.2023, ಮಂಗಳವಾರ,
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ಸ್ಥಳ: ಕ್ರಾಂತಿವೀರ ಸಂಗೊಳ್ಳಿ ರಾಯಣ್ಣ
ಪ್ರತಿಮೆ ಆವರಣ, ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸು ವೃತ್ತ
(ಹೋಡೆ ಸರ್ಕಲ್), ಕ್ರಾಂತಿವೀರ ಸಂಗೊಳ್ಳಿ ರಾಯಣ್ಣ
ರೈಲ್ವೆ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ
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ಸ್ವಾತಂತ್ರ್ಯೋತ್ಸವದ
ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು

ರಾಕೇಶ್ ಸಿಂಗ್, ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ.,
ಆಡಳಿತಗಾರರು, ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ

ತುಷಾರ್ ಗಿರಿ ನಾಥ್, ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ.,
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಬಿಬಿಎಂಪಿ

"ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವೈಯಕ್ತಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಮೂಹಿಕ ಚಟುವಟಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಉನ್ನತಿ ಸಾಧಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಯತ್ನಿಸಿ ದೇಶದ ಪ್ರಗತಿಗಾಗಿ ಶ್ರಮಿಸುವುದು ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಭಾರತೀಯನ ಸಂವಿಧಾನಬದ್ಧ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ"

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Follow us on:

Traffic diversion for Independence Day in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru City Traffic Police has made the traffic arrangements in and around the Field Marshal Manekshaw Parade Ground for Independence day celebrations .

According to an official release, due to security reasons, all invitees who are attending the parade are requested not to bring mobile phones, helmets, cameras, radios, umbrellas, and other equipment to the Parade Ground. All are requested to be seated one hour before as the Chief Minister of Karnataka will receive the salute around 9 a.m.

Media vehicles and O.B. vans will enter Parade Ground through Gate No. 3 and park their vehicles on eastern side of the Parade Ground.

The traffic will be diverted on August 15 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. from BRV Junction to Kamaraj Road Junction. (both directions) on Cubbon Road.

The city police have appealed to the members of general public to avail public transport to maximum extent due to shortage of parking place in and around Parade Ground, and to avoid congestion .

As country celebrates freedom, over 20 writers in State live under security cover, over threats to life

However, there are also many writers who have refused protection, arguing it would impose restrictions on them

INDEPENDENCE DAY

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj and Sathish G.T.
BENGALURU/SHIVAMOGGA

As the nation celebrates freedom, ironically, over 20 writers in Karnataka have been living under round-the-clock police security for years now. This follows their names figuring in hit-lists of those who allegedly killed two writers in the State – M.M. Kalburgi and Gauri Lankesh – and them receiving multiple threat letters. "Writers having to live under armed security over threats to their lives is not a good sign for any democracy. It is shameful and a sign of the times," said K.S. Bhagavan, a plot to kill whom was allegedly in the advanced stages in 2018 by the alleged killers of Kalburgi and Gauri.

Another senior writer Baragur Ramachandrappa, who has been living under security for over seven years now, finds the whole situation "absurd." "I never thought of myself as someone who had to live under security to protect myself," he said, adding that security cover changes life in subtle ways.

After writer Kum. Veerabhadrappa received threat letters, a policeman has been deputed for his security. A photo taken during a programme in Kottur, the writer's hometown.

Lurking threat

"Security cover is a constant reminder of the possible lurking threat. More than me, it has had an impact on my family members. Your travel is restricted, you start seeing everything with suspicion, your eyes are always on the lookout for unknown danger. I used to go for a walk every morning. But the police ask you to change the route everyday. It became so cumbersome, I quit walking altogether," he said.

Banjagere Jayaprakash, who has got multiple threat letters for over a year now, said he now hesitates to accept invitations from places from where he got such letters.

"This will definitely impact creative writing as well. A writer has to travel a lot, interact with many people, and have a free environment for his creative expression. In the present scenario, it is not possible. Even while addressing a gathering, I have to be extra careful and cautious whenever I encounter an unknown person," he said.

Some refuse security

Many writers have refused to take security cover, arguing it would impose restrictions on them. Chitradurga-based writer B.L. Venu, who has received 15 threat letters in the past year, the latest three days ago, refused security as he said it would put him in an "embarrassing situation."

S.G. Siddaramaiah also refused security cover. "I felt there is no point in depending on someone for my safety and have decided to face the reality as it is," he said.

While many writers claim threats to their lives and security cover had not affected their thought process, their outspoken nature and their writing, many also point to subtle influences. "What impacts the most is the fear among family members, their concerns and the way that puts pressure on you," Prof. Siddaramaiah said.

Prof. Ramachandrappa said though he was lucky never to be told by his family members to desist from taking "controversial" positions and continues to speak whatever he feels, the threats and security will play upon the mind in subtle ways.

Touch of dark humour

Meanwhile, dark humour seems to sustain some writers. "During my youth, I did not receive love letters. Now, I have started to treat these letters as love letters. If I ever get a chance to meet the person who wrote me these letters, I will invite him to my home and teach him to write better," said Mr. Veerabhadrappa with a laugh.

Sale of khadi flags from Hubballi unit hit for the second year in succession

Women making khadi flags at the manufacturing unit of Khadi Gramodyog Samyukta Sangha at Bengeri in Hubballi. KIRAN BAKALE

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

For the second year in succession, despite the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the sale of khadi flags in the sole khadi flag manufacturing unit of the country located in Hubballi has gone down further, thanks to the amendment made to the National Flag Code of India.

Just before the first call for Har Ghar Tiranga was given to mark the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of India's Independence in 2022, the National Flag Code was amended to allow the use of flags made of polyester cloth.

Prior to 2022, the flag code allowed the use of only khadi flag. Hubballi houses the country's sole BIS-recognised national flag manufacturing unit which functions under the Khadi Gramodyog Samyukta Sangha, Bengeri.

Fall in sales

Every year, by the end of July, the federation (Samyukta Sangha) would have dispatched tricolour worth ₹2.5 crore.

But the amendment to flag code last year has left the unit struggling, despite more people hoisting the flag on Independence Day.

"So far, we have supplied national flags of different sizes worth ₹1.5 crore, which is much lower than any normal year. It is disheartening," said secretary of Samyukta Sangha Shivanand Mathapathi, who is upset that khadi weavers and workers are made to suffer that too during the Amrit Mahotsav celebrations of the country's Independence.

Manufacturing flags

In all, around 1,200 persons, mainly women, are involved in the national flag manufacturing work in over 15 units of the sangha spread across the districts of Dharwad and Bagalkot.

While Bengeri in Hubballi houses the flag manufacturing unit, where the work of stitching, printing, dyeing takes place, the khadi cloth is spun and woven in the khadi units, including Tulasigeri (major unit), spread across the district of Bagalkot.

The sangha, recognised by BIS in 2004, strictly adheres to the flag code and consequently, it is the flag from this unit which is hoisted in places like the Red Fort and other major venues.

Repeated memoranda to the Union government on the issue by various organisations, including the khadi sanghas, have not made any impact so far.

Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi had last year termed it as a temporary measure to cater to the huge demand for flags. However, even after a year, the amendment to the flag code allowing polyester cloth flag has not been withdrawn.

As polyester cloth flags are cheap compared to khadi flags, naturally even the number of those who used to buy from the khadi sangha has come down.

Khadi activists and sanghas have maintained that reverting to the old system will give a new fillip to the khadi and village industries, on which Mahtma Gandhi used to lay emphasis.

However, the government seems to be playing into the hands of private mill owners manufacturing polyester cloth flag, instead of protecting the khadi sector, they say.

Mangaluru man hoists tricolour every day after *Har Ghar Tiranga* call by PM

Raghava M.
MANGALURU

Sharanappa Manneri Jalihal, a 65-year-old native of Badami in Bagalkot district, is the caretaker of Devanga Bhavan in Mangaluru. Since August 13, 2022, he has been hoisting the tricolour at Devanga Bhavan at 8 a.m. and lowering it at 6 p.m. every day.

Kshiti Mamloor, the managing trustee of Bhagawathi Trust that manages Bhagavati temple, Kukkady Shri Arasu Mundattaya Daivastana and Devanga Bhavan, said that, following the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2022, a pole was built and a khadi tricolour was procured. On August 13, 2022, the trust started the practice of hoisting the flag in Devanga Bhavan every day.

"On August 15, 2022, Sharanappa Manneri Jalihal hoisted the flag and lowered it in the evening. Asked whether he can do it daily, Mr. Jalihal agreed. He has been doing it with full dedication," Mr. Mamloor told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Jalihal wears a white dhoti and white Gandhi topi while hoisting and lowering the tri-colour. "The flag is hoisted at the time when pooja starts in the temple. A part of the flowers used for pooja is spread at the base of the flag post before the tri-colour is hoisted. Kshiti master (Mr. Mamloor) taught me the procedure to be followed while hoisting and lowering the flag," Mr. Jalihal told *The Hindu*.

After this Independence Day, the trust will discontinue the practice as the flag post will be removed during renovation work"We will resume the practice of hoisting the flag after renovation of the temple is completed, which includes building a new flag post," Mr. Mamloor said.

Sharanappa Manneri Jalihal hoisting the tricolour when puja starts at Bhagavati temple, in Mangaluru. RAGHAVA M.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (August 15, Tuesday), the following articles are available:

- The new Bills to overhaul criminal laws
  bit.ly/newcriminalbills
- Is air pollution driving the rise of antibiotic resistance?
  bit.ly/pollutionantibiotic

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Joint effort

A 1,500 sqft tricolour rangoli that was created by Vasavi Jnana Peetha First Grade College students and faculty members ahead of Independence Day, in Bengaluru on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

In Belagavi, memorial of martyr of the First War of Independence languishes in anonymity

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

The lovely gazebos on General Thimayya Road in the military camp area are among the favourite places for the young people of Belagavi, in north Karnataka.

Built in the Portuguese style with overgrown creepers, they seem like a perfect setting for photo shoots.

Around a mile to the north-east from there, at the centre of a vast field, lie two similar looking structures, painted in white lime. They are not gazebos, but either tombs or memorials.

Few know that an incredible tale from the pages of history lies buried in these structures. These are the tombs of Bhaskar Rao Bhave, king of the erstwhile Naragund (or Nargund) kingdom, his mother Yamunabai Dadaji, and wife Savitri Bhave.

The tomb of Naragund Baba Saheb, ruler of the erstwhile kingdom of Naragund, in Belagavi. P.K. BADIGER

Popularly known as Naragund Baba Saheb, the king was among the freedom fighters from the Deccan to lead the first War of Independence in 1857.

The East India Company took over his kingdom, attached his properties and executed him in June 1858.

For nearly 100 years, his tomb slid into the abyss of the portion of history that was forgotten till a memorial was built for him in Belagavi, nearly a decade after independence. However, the memorial continues to languish in anonymity.

Baba Saheb was among the many victims of the Doctrine of Lapse of 1848. His son died in infancy. His request to adopt an heir was rejected by the East India Company.

Inam Commissioner Jacob Manson sent an attachment notice to take over the properties and armoury in Naragund.

This upset Baba Saheb who got in touch with Peshwa Nana Saheb, who was leading the 1857 War of Independence. Baba Saheb put together a coalition comprising the heads of the princely states of Ramdurg, Nippani, Dambala, Mundargi and Koppal.

Gets revenge

Baba Saheb's forces fought Jacob Manson's army in Sureban village in March 1858. Baba Saheb executed Jacob Manson whose body was hung from the gate of Belagavi.

This angered the British *resident* (a senior official in the administration of the East India Company) in Dharwad who sent additional forces.

Baba Saheb was betrayed by his courtier Krishnaji Pant Joshi. Sensing that defeat was imminent, Baba Saheb left Naragund, along with a few trusted associates, on a pilgrimage towards Pandharpur (Maharashtra). But, they were captured by a team led by Superintendent of Police Frank Sauter in Torgal jungle.

Baba Saheb was hanged in public on June 12, 1858.

Over the next few days, his wife and mother ended their lives. The princely state was taken over by the resident in Dharwad who converted Bhave palace into the taluk office in Naragund. It remains so to this day.

Some residents of the military camp area, who know the history of war in Naragund, see at the memorial with reverence. "Every morning on the way to work, I stop and pay obeisance to the Baba Saheb. It is sad that not many know about him,'' said Omar Farooq Nawab, scion of the Savanur royal family who runs a heritage hotel in the vicinity.

Some experts, however, say the structures in Belagavi are not tombs, but memorials. "The bodies of Baba Saheb and his family members were cremated as per Brahmin rituals. The ashes remained with the Nargundkar Bhave family for over a century. They were interred in the ground behind the CPEd ground, and the two memorials were built over them in 1957,'' says A.L. Nagur, Vijayapura-based professor who has studied the history of the princely states of northern Karnataka.

Plans to develop

The district administration plans to honour Baba Saheb's memory on August 15 this year. Deputy Commissioner Nitesh Patil said, "There are demands that the memorial be further developed and publicised. We will send a report to the Karnataka government about this."

Metro's Purple Line services to be affected between Aug. 17 and 29

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To facilitate testing of signalling systems between the Kengeri and Challaghatta, as well as THE Baiyappanahalli and Krishnarajapura sections on the Purple line, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has announced curtailment of metro services in different sections on various dates for August.

On different dates

According to a release by BMRCL, on August 17, there will be no services for the full day between Kengeri and Mysuru stations, while services will be available only between Mysuru Road and Baiyappanahalli stations from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

On August 23 and 24, there will be no services up to 7 a.m. between Kengeri and Mysuru Road stations. During this period, services will be available only between Mysuru Road and Swami Vivekananda Road stations.

After 7 a.m., normal service will be there from Kengeri to Baiyappanahalli.

Meanwhile, from August 20 to 29, there will be no services up to 7 a.m. between Baiyappanahalli terminal and Swami Vivekananda station, and between Krishnarajapura and Whitefield (Kadugodi) sections.

During this period, services will be available from Swami Vivekananda Road station only.

On August 23 and 24, trains will be terminated at Mysuru Road between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. and on the remaining days trains will run up to Kengeri.

After 7 a.m., normal services will be there from Baiyappanahalli to Kengeri, the BMRCL release stated.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, after meeting auto and cab drivers association members in Bengaluru recently, announced that the department will develop a taxi and auto booking app, similar to private cab aggregators. FILE PHOTO

E-Governance Dept. asked to start development of ride-hailing app

Transport officials are in the process of planning a visit to Kerala to study the government-operated 'Kerala Savari' app model

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The State government's ride-hailing app plan is gaining momentum, with the Transport Department asking the e-Governance Department to initiate the development of the mobile application and launch it in six months.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, after meeting auto and cab drivers association members in Bengaluru recently, announced that the Transport Department will develop a taxi and auto booking app, similar to private cab aggregators.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Reddy said, "The e-Governance Department will be asked to develop the app since the department has been developing government-related apps. This app will incorporate a range of features, particularly those dedicated to enhancing the safety and security of passengers. We are also planning to take help from private agencies to run the app."

Mr. Reddy further said that the government had decided to develop an app similar to private cab aggregators since auto and cab drivers have been facing many issues. "The commission paid to the cab aggregators is very high and our taxi and auto drivers are not happy with the private aggregators," Mr. Reddy added.

Meanwhile, the Transport Department officials are in the process of planning a visit to Kerala to study the government-operated 'Kerala Savari' app model. In 2022, the Kerala government introduced 'Kerala Savari,' the country's first online taxi service owned by a State government.

Similarly, a few months ago, the Goa government also launched a mobile application, which is a common platform for the entire taxi industry in the State.

The Karnataka government's proposal to develop the ride-hailing app has received favourable reactions. Transport activists have highlighted the app's potential, but underscored the importance of engaging stakeholders in the process.

Vinay Sreenivasa, a Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike representative, said, "While the concept shows great potential, it is essential for the government to involve auto and cab drivers in consultations to ensure a seamless execution."

HC: Holistic approach needed to address menace of illegal constructions in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that a holistic approach is needed to address the menace of illegal constructions in the city, the High Court of Karnataka on Monday directed the State government and the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike to come out with a composite action plan for taking action against illegal constructions.

"Passing of order by the court would be nothing but a mere paper formality unless all the stakeholders jointly come together and prepare a composite action plan," a division bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice M.G.S. Kamal observed.

The Bench made these observations during the hearing of a PIL petition initiated suo motu by the court in 2019 after noticing a large number of petitions filed by neighbours and residents' welfare associations against individual illegal constructions across the city.

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday directed the State government and the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike to come out with a composite action plan for taking action against illegal constructions.

As a large number of illegal constructions, either without obtaining approval for a plan or deviating from the sanctioned plan, have been already identified, there should be official machinery available with the BBMP to take further action, like issuing of notice, hearing of the appeal against notice, issuing of notice for demolition, etc., the Bench said while noticing BBMP's earlier statement about lack of resource to carry out demolition works.

Earlier, Senior Advocate and amicus curiae Pramod N. Kathavi pointed out to the court that the BBMP, acting on the court's direction, had started a survey of illegal constructions, and in its report, on initial phases of the survey, submitted to the court in June 2022 had indicated the existence of thousands of buildings put up in violation of the law.

Mr. Kathavi also pointed out that though notices for demolition were issued in good numbers, the actual demolition is minimal, and some of the demolished illegal structures are in the nature of temporary sheds.

The Bench also recorded the submission of Mr. Kathavi that the demolition process appears to be initiated only against a handful or a few persons, who are not so economically sound, and that the actions taken are only a namesake action.

Meanwhile, the Bench directed the BBMP to inform whether it had submitted its requirement of additional staff/ officials to the State Chief Secretary as per earlier directions given by the court and what action has been taken by the Government.

Fire accident probe: Police serve notice on BBMP chief engineer seeking his cooperation

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Halasuru Gate police have served a notice on BBMP Chief Engineer (Road Infrastructure) B.S. Prahlad on Monday asking him to cooperate with the investigation into the fire accident that occurred at the civic body's Quality Control Laboratory (QCL) on August 11.

On August 12, the police held three BBMP staff and questioned them for about five hours before releasing them on station bail.

The staff have been identified as Ananda, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), Swamy, AEE, and Suresh Kumar, a D group worker. The complaint was filed by Mr. Prahlad, seeking a probe into the accident. The police have also recorded statements of victims who are being treated at a government hospital.

On the other hand, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath ordered an Internal Technical Enquiry (ITE) and appointed Mr. Prahlad as the probing officer. ITE has commenced probe on August 12.

According to sources in the BBMP, the police served notice to Mr. Prahlad asking him to cooperate with the probe which means he may be requested to grant accesses to files and police may seek information with regard to the case. However, the notice did not ask him to appear for questioning. This was confirmed to the *The Hindu* by Mr. Prahlad.

Sources in the civic agency said three BBMP staff were named in the FIR as they escaped unhurt. They were asked about how the test was conducted, where they were during the test and how they escaped without any burn injuries. They will also be questioned by Mr. Prahlad.

However, Mr. Swamy said he was not inside the office when the incident occurred.

Sources also said Mr. Prahlad will be writing to the City Police Commissioner about his willingness to cooperate in the investigation and the same letter is likely to be dispatched on Monday or Tuesday.

Although Mr. Prahlad is gathering preliminary information about the incident, his visit to the QCL will be delayed as the area has been cordoned off by the police. The office has been sealed by the police for investigation to ensure zero contamination.

"Mr. Prahlad can analyse the scene only after police opens the door. Until then, he can only talk to staff and victims," a senior BBMP official said.

Zonal JCs, CEs to pay ₹50,000 for failure to implement HC order

The High Court had directed the BBMP to remove flexes in the city. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Zonal Joint Commissioners and Chief Engineers will have to pay ₹50,000 to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) if they fail to remove illegal hoardings and flexes in city, which will then be deposited in the High Court (HC), said a BBMP order.

The HC earlier this month directed the BBMP to remove flexes to implement its order, failing which the civic body and the State government have to pay ₹50,000 each in court for every instance of unauthorised hoarding put up in the future.

The BBMP order has no clarity on whether officials have to pay ₹50,000 each or pool it. The BBMP has to submit a report to the HC on Wednesday after implementing the order. The order said Joint Commissioners and Chief Engineers of the zones will be made responsible for removal.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated August 15, we take a look at Lalbagh's flower show. The famed floral event, which began in 1867, has a legacy of its own, with the participation of florists, fruit growers, and cattlemen. The 214th show, this year, is designed as a tribute to Karnataka's second Chief Minister, Kengal Hanumanthaiah.

FIR against Upendra for alleged racist remark stayed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday stayed the first information report (FIR) registered against Kannada actor Upendra under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, for his alleged racist remark during a live chat on social media platform.

Justice Hemant Chandangoudar passed the interim order on a petition filed by Mr. Upendra questioning the legality of registration of the criminal case in the absence of ingredient to attract the provisions of the Act.

Protesters burning an effigy of actor Upendra on Jnana Bharathi campus of Bangalore University on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

In his live talk on August 12, the petitioner had used a Kannada proverb that some had taken objection to as casteist, while speaking about the ills that ail society and transformation that was required to be brought about in society.

"It is a proverb, which is generally used to state that criticism is bound to be generally there and one need not be unduly perturbed. It has nothing to do with insult to Dalit or people belonging to SC/ST. Very significantly, there is a place called Holageri in Shivamogga district and there are many people with the surname Holageri," it has been stated in the petition, while contending that use of the proverb could not be construed as an insult to a community.

After the talk, it was stated in the petition that the petitioner came to know that certain persons had started criticising him for using the proverb. Following this, the petitioner deleted the episode on social media platform and apologised to the people if he had inadvertently hurt anyone and made it clear that he had no intention of insulting any person or community.

It was contended in the petition that the complaint was "motivated, malafide and calculated to garner undue publicity".

The FIR was registered against Mr. Upendra based on a complaint lodged by Madhusudhan K.N., Assistant Director of Social Welfare, who acted on the representation received from Dalit activists Gopal Giriyappa and Banashankari Vasu seeking action against the actor.

Meanwhile, on Monday, members of Bangalore University Postgraduation and Research Scholars' Association held a protest and burnt an effigy of Mr. Upendra on the university's Jnana Bharati campus, Mysuru Road.

In another development, Byrappa Harish Kumar, State president of Karnataka Ranadhira Pade, filed a complaint against Mr. Upendra with Halasuru Gate police here amidst high drama on Sunday.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

KPCC meeting signals senior Ministers to quit after 30 months to make way for young leaders

Muniyappa sets the tone for the meeting by stating that senior Ministers, including himself, should step down to accommodate new faces; DKS hints at Cabinet reshuffle soon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The general body meeting (GBM) called by the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) on Monday signalled senior ministers in the Siddaramaiah government to be ready to sacrifice their posts after 30 months to pave the way for a young generation of leaders.

Senior leader and Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa set the tone for the meeting by asking senior Ministers, including himself, to step down from their offices after 30 months for accommodating new faces who worked for the party's electoral victory in the 2023 Assembly polls.

KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who endorsed Mr. Muniyappa's statement, has indicated Cabinet reshuffle in the coming days.

Congress leaders at the party general body meeting in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The GBM, conducted to prepare the party's strategies in the coming elections to the rural and urban local bodies, BBMP and the Lok Sabha elections, told Ministers and senior leaders to be prepared to share power with the new generation of leaders by voluntarily relieving their posts. Candidates for the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister's posts would be decided by the party high command, but senior Ministers should quit after 30 months in office to provide space for young legislators, he said.

In his speech, Mr. Muniyappa said many leaders at the district level worked for the party's victory, and seniors and Ministers in the government should develop willingness to sacrifice their posts for accommodating them.

Mr. Shivakumar said chiefs to the government-owned boards and corporations would be appointed for 30 months. All those chiefs appointed now will have to relinquish their posts after 30 months for another round of appointment to new faces, he said.

For Lok Sabha polls

Speaking after inaugurating the GBM, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah spoke at length on various issues and told the party cadre not to relax till the next year's elections. He had assured the party high command of giving 20 MPs from Karnataka. "According to me, the BJP will be defeated 100% in the 2024 general elections," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Noting that the party had secured 42.8% votes in the 2023 Assembly polls, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the electorate rejected the BJP for unemployment, inflation and bad governance. The BJP leaders banked on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership to win Assembly elections. But all calculations of the BJP went wrong in the polls. He also criticised the "double engine" government slogan of the BJP and said the BJP in Karnataka made the State bankrupt.

"If the Constitution is changed, more than 90% of the country's working classes' living opportunities will be destroyed. Therefore, the people of the country have a very big responsibility to save the Constitution and protect the opportunities of the working classes of the country. Congress has been given this responsibility by the working classes of the State and the country," he said.

On guarantee schemes

The BJP has cheated the people of the State by not giving tax and economic assistance to our State, he said. "But, we have designed guarantee schemes in such a way that there is money in people's pockets. We have presented a budget that will increase the purchasing power of the people. All the States of the country have come forward to study and adopt this development of Karnataka model," he said.

He argued that former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy had forgotten his party. "Mr. Kumaraswamy is acting like he is the BJP spokesperson. The JD (S) leader just flashes the empty pen drive out of the pocket and keeps it back," the Chief Minister mocked.

NEP will be scrapped from next academic year, says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the New Education Policy (NEP) would be scrapped from the next academic year (2024-25) in Karnataka.

After making necessary arrangements, the NEP would be scrapped, he said. "This year it is not possible since the academic year has begun when the government was formed," he said.

The ruling Congress has promised to scrap the New Education Policy and prepare a new education policy for the State.

NEP has been continuing this year to avoid inconvenience to the students in the middle of the academic year, Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

The Chief Minister was speaking at the general body meeting of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee held at the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) office.

"The NEP has faced stiff opposition from students, parents, teachers and lecturers. The Bharatiya Janata Party has sacrificed the interests of the students from the State by implementing the NEP in the State on experimental basis, which it is not implemented it in all States," Mr. Siddaramaiah alleged.

New policy

It had been announced that the Congress would not implement the NEP in the State, which was reiterated in the Budget. Instead, the government would formulate a new education policy.

Reference to RSS

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar had dubbed NEP as the "Nagpur Education Policy", referring to the RSS headquarters in Nagpur city. He had argued that the NEP violated the rights of the State.

Hunger strike seeking measures to solve land and housing issues

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Samiti demands reconstitution of committee that was disbanded by the BJP government

The landless and organisations supporting them have begun a two-day hunger strike demanding measures to solve the pressing land and housing crisis in Karnataka.

The late freedom fighter H.S. Doreswamy in 2018 led a campaign seeking justice for the landless in the State. Siddaramaiah, who was the Chief Minister then too, had formed a committee including representatives from the Bhoomi Mattu Vasati Hakku Vanchitara Horata Samiti, led by the Development Commissioner, to look into these issues. However, the committee was disbanded by the BJP government that followed.

The samiti has now launched a two-day hunger strike at Freedom Park, demanding the reconstitution of the committee, this time led by a Cabinet Minister.

"H.S. Doreswamy dreamt of distribution of 2 acres of land to all the landless in the State. But that may be far. The government should immediately take measures to legalise lands that farmers and landless are in possession of," said Sirimane Nagaraj, vice-president of the Horata Samiti.

The samiti has demanded regularisation of Bagair Hukum lands across the State and a joint survey of all lands to sort out the contested claims by Forest and Revenue Departments, redistribution of PTCL lands, issual of pattas to all slum dwellers among other demands.

"The Chief Minister should immediately convene a high-level meeting with Ministers and officials of Revenue, Forest, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Housing and Social Welfare Departments, like it was done in 2018. Following this, an empowered committee led by a Cabinet Minister and including representatives of those fighting for land rights should be formed to take up measures to ensure land justice on a war footing," a charter of demands said.

Contractors' pending bills trigger political slugfest between Shivakumar and Ashwath Narayan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Allegations on seeking 15% commission for release of contractors' bills in the Congress government has resulted in a political slugfest between Deputy Chief Minister and Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee chief D.K. Shivakumar and Bharatiya Janata Party leader and former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan.

"I will show the document after two days, which will shock you. I am feeling sorry for contractors on how they are being misused, and embarrassed," Mr. Shivakumar said and asked why the previous BJP government had not cleared bills.

To meet Governor

On Sunday, Mr. Ashwath Narayan had said that the BJP leaders would meet Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot over the allegations of corruption against Mr. Shivakumar and press for handing over the case to the Lokayukta for a probe.

He demanded that Mr. Shivakumar be sacked from the Cabinet.

However, stating that a probe would be conducted to help "genuine contractors" whose bills are not cleared, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "We have decided to investigate the matter. Let him go to any level, and approach anyone. Let him play any game or carry out a campaign, I will not speak on that."

Mr. Shivakumar said, "I will speak after Independence Day. I have not granted a contract to anyone and a few contractors came to me and requested me to release the bills for the works done during the BJP government period. If the work is done, we are bound to clear bills. Why did the BJP not clear bills during their tenure?" Mr. Shivakumar questioned.

'DKS tax'

However, continuing his attack, Mr. Ashwath Narayan said that "DKS tax" and "YST" have been imposed for every project in Karnataka.

The BJP leader was referring to the allegations of 15% commission against Mr. Shivakumar as "DKS tax" and allegations against Chief Minister's Siddaramaiah's son Dr. Yathindra over "commission" in transfers as "YST tax."

The two Vokkaliga community leaders have been indulging in verbal duels on several occasions for the past few months.

Govt. PU lecturers oppose student-strength based restriction for transfer

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has imposed a restriction that if there are less than 40 students enrolled per subject in a PU college, those lecturers are not eligible for transfer.

After objections raised by the lecturers during the transfer online counselling process, the Department of PU Education (DPUE) had postponed the government PU colleges principals and lecturers transfer counselling on August 11. But the department sent a message on Sunday to principals of PU colleges stating that the transfer process will be continued as per the schedule from August 14 onwards. On Monday, counselling for transfer of Kannada lecturers was conducted.

The department has started the request transfer process of government principals and lecturers of PU colleges. Around 82 principals and 2,397 lecturers applied for transfer this year. The department had announced the schedule of lecturers general transfer online counselling from August 11 to 24.

"There are around 1,232 government PU colleges running in the State. But, during the time of online counselling, the department hid the available vacancies of lecturer post in 297 PU Colleges and 1,047 subject wise posts," a transfer aspirant alleged.

"After various enquiries, officials revealed that the department has imposed a restriction that if there are less than 40 students enrolled per each subject in the PU course, those lecturers are not eligible for transfer. The department has not sent an order about this restriction, nor has it informed us," said a lecturer.

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

TENDER NOTICE :TANGEDCO/SHORT/ PP-32/2023

TANGEDCO invites E-Tender for procurement of RTC power and Peak hour power for a Period from **01.03.2024** to **31.05.2024** from both Interstate and Intrastate generators on firm basis from CERC/ TNERC approved Traders/ Generators. Bidding will be done as per the revised guidelines for short term procurement of power notified by the Ministry of Power vide resolution dated **30.03.2016** and as per amendments dated: **21.02.2022** through e-Bidding portal (DEEP) only and subsequent amendments thereof are applicable to this tender specification. The link for the e-Bidding portal is **www.mstcecommerce.com,** and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power **(www.powermin.nic.in)** and PFC Consulting Ltd **(www.pfcclindia.com).** Specification is available in TANGEDCO website and MSTC DEEP E-Bidding portal.

DIPR/4492/Tender/2023

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

Chief Engineer/PPP(I/c)
TANGEDCO

BRAHMAPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Court Road, Courtpeta, Brahmapur, Ganjam, Odisha, Pin-760004
www.bdabrahmapur.in, email: bedaengineers@gmail.com; Phone No.0680 2292797

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT - Invitation for Bids (IFB) -No. 691 / BeDA(Engg.), Dt.11.08.2023

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Crore)	Class of Contractor	Period of Completion	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding From	Availability of Bid Document for Online Bidding To	Name & Address of Officer Inviting Bid
1.	Construction of additional work (Phase-II) Ganjam Haat & Commercial Complex at Brahmapur (PART- A)	EM-BeDA-31/ 2023-24	1.84	"B" or Equivalent	04 (Four) Calendar Months	16.08.2023 10.00 Hours	04.09.2023 17.30 Hours	Engineer Member, Brahmapur Development Authority, Courtpeta, Brahmapur- 760004
2.	Construction of additional work (Phase-II) Ganjam Haat & Commercial Complex at Brahmapur(PART-B).	EM-BeDA-32 / 2023-24	2.60	"B" or Equivalent	06 (Six) Calendar Months	16.08.2023 10.00 Hours	04.09.2023 17.30 Hours	
3.	Construction of additional work (Phase-II) Ganjam Haat & Commercial Complex at Brahmapur (PART- C).	EM-BeDA-33 / 2023-24	3.23	LT/HT License or Registered Firm	06 (Six) Calendar Months	16.08.2023 10.00 Hours	04.09.2023 17.30 Hours	
4.	Construction of additional work (Phase-II) Ganjam Haat & Commercial Complex at Brahmapur (PART- D).	EM-BeDA-34 / 2023-24	0.52	"B" or Equivalent	03 (Three) Calendar Months	16.08.2023 10.00 Hours	04.09.2023 17.30 Hours	

● All Corrigendum and addenda shall be published in official website only. ● The Bidder shall have to participate in **ON LINE** bidding only. ● Late date for seeking clarification - **Dt.31.08.2023 up to 17.30 Hours**. ● Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in** and **www.bdabrahmapur.in** ● Tender shall be opened online on **Dt.05.09.2023 at 11 Hours**.

CAD-1687:

ENGINEER MEMBER, Brahmapur Development Authority, Brahmapur.
OIPR-13086/11/0007/2324

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department

Office of The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Chickballapur Division, Chickballapur. Ph: 08156-270058
E-mail ID: **eerdwsd.ckb2@gmail.com**

No:EE:RDW&SD:CBP:A.E.-2/2023-24 Date:05.08.2023

Tender Notification No: 02/2023-24, Date: 10.08.2023

Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Chickballapur, On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Invites request for proposal of tenders from the eligible bidders for the work of Providing FHTC"S to **60** Villages in Bagepalli Taluk Chickballapur District. One &Two Cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP act shall be followed. The tenderers are required to submit **(Under KW-I KW-II & KW-III)** tenders through E-Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ (1)** Last Date & Time for Queries: **25.08.2023 Time : 5.30 PM, (2)** Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids:**26.08.2023 Time : 5.30PM (3)** Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening: **28.08.2023 Time: 04.30 PM, (4)** Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening: **30.08.2023 Time: 11.00 AM,** More details can be had from the office of the undersigned and also through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** by clicking List of Tenders which will link to all Dept. works list.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Chikkaballapur

DIPR/CHIKKBALLAPUR/RO:52/KSMCA/2023-24

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಶ್ರೀ. ಕಂಠೀರವ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ, ಕಸ್ತೂರಬಾ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಗೇಟ್ ನಂ.12, ಕೊಠಡಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 17-18, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560001.
ದೂ. ಕಚೇರಿ: 080-22239771, e-mail: adyssbangaloreurban12@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: DYES/2023-24/SE0032 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14-08-2023

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ : 2023-24ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಉಟೋಪಹಾರ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ, **ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು** ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯದ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಪಟುಗಳಿಗೆ ಉಟೋಪಹಾರ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಗಳು 2000 ಅನ್ವಯ ಅರ್ಹ ಪೂರೈಕೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-08-2023 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.** 2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21-08-2023 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** 3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22-08-2023 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.** 4) ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಂ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಶುಲ್ಕದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ **ರೂ. 2,98,350.00.** 5) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ: **ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಶ್ರೀ ಕಂಠೀರವ ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿನ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಚೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-22239771, ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 9480886545, 7204266766. ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: adyssbangaloreurban12@gmail.com**

ಅರ್ಜಿ ವಿವರ ಮತ್ತು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಸಹಾಯಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಯುವ ಸಬಲೀಕರಣ ಮತ್ತು ಕ್ರೀಡಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/902/ಅಡ್ವರ್ಟೋ/2023-24

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Raichur Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

No: SESP/e-tender Date : 07.08.2023

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement portal only)

Following **e-tenders** are published in Karnataka Govt. e-portal **www.kppp.karnataka. gov.in Under "GOODS" category on 05.08.2023 & 07.08.2023** as per RTPS requirements.

Brief Details of Goods: Procurement of **1)** KPCL/2023-24/IND0337: Medical Lab Equipments. EMD: **Rs. 7,680/-. 2)** KPCL/2023-24/IND0341: Lamps Fittings & Accessories. EMD : **Rs. 16,380/-. 3)** KPCL/2023-24/IND0342: Mill Spares: Wheel Shaft, Sintered Bush. EMD : **Rs. 16,995/-. 4)*** KPCL/2023-24/IND0357: Flame Scanner Guide Assembly. EMD : **Rs.4,050/-. 5)*** KPCL/2023-24/IND0356: Disc Holder, Spindle. EMD: **Rs.2,400/-. 6)** KPCL/2023-24/IND0358: Pump Spares for CAM-2.: EMD : **Rs.23,400/-. 7)** KPCL/2023-24/IND0359: Pump Spares for CAM-2. EMD: **Rs.63,100/-. 8)** KPCL/2023-24/IND0360: Pump Spares for CAM-2. EMD : **Rs.19,700/-. 9)** KPCL/2023-24/IND0361: Pump Spares for CAM-2 of RTPS: EMD : **Rs.21,800/-. * Sl. No. 4 & 5 are on Short term Basis**.

All relevant details of the bids are available in the above mentioned e-portal. Further details can be had from the Office of **The Executive Engineer (Purchase)** RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Dist. Raichur. Mobile: 9449597966.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

Smt. Saraswathi Venkataraman

With profound sorrow, we inform the sad demise of our dear mother on Sunday 6th August 2023 in Bangalore.

Rajah, Ranjan & Jagan and their families

SAD DEMISE

VANMALA RANGAN

We regret to inform you of the demise of our mother, Smt. Vanmala Rangan, on Saturday, 12th August 2023.

May she find eternal peace.

Her legacy lives on through cherished memories

Aarthi, Jayanth, Family and Friends

The rich legacy of Bengaluru's flower power in Lalbagh

The famed Lalbagh flower show began in 1867 in which local florists, fruit growers, and cattlemen participated and the best among them won awards. It has come a long way since then, with two shows to mark Independence Day and Republic Day

A floral replica of Gol Gumbaz, the architectural dome wonder in Vijayapura. FILE PHOTO

The flower show to commemorate the 85th year of the Kannada film industry. FILE PHOTO

Various flowers like anthurium, lily, gerbera, sevanthige, orchids, and carnations used in the floral installations. FILE PHOTO

A floral tribute to Dr. Rajkumar and Puneeth Rajkumar on the occasion of Independence Day. FILE PHOTO

A replica of Parliament at the flower show organised by Department of Horticulture and the Mysore Horticulture Society. FILE PHOTO

The 30-ft floral stupa made out of nearly four lakh flowers in myriad hues was the main attraction at the inauguration of the 'Horticultural Show 2012' on the occasion of the Republic Day at Lalbagh Glass House in Bengaluru.

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

It's that time of the year again when colourful blooms attract people to Bengaluru. Independence Day is here and Bengaluru's Lalbagh is presenting its 214th flower show, which this year is designed as a tribute to Karnataka's second Chief Minister Kengal Hanumanthaiah.

The Independence Day flower show, which was inaugurated on August 4, witnessed a footfall of close to one lakh people from across the country in the first two days of its opening. As a floral tribute to Hanumanthaiya, a 14-feet statue of the former Chief Minister, an 18-feet replica of the Vidhana Soudha and a replica of the Shivapura Satyagraha Soudha are among the attractions this year.

While it is common knowledge that Lalbagh hosts two flower shows every year, what is less known is the history of the flower show itself, which started way back in 1867. When the Agri-Horticulture Society of India was started in 1820, various programmes and exhibitions were put up by farmers and plantation growers. As part of this exhibition, in February 1867, a two-day flower show by many florists, fruit growers, and cattlemen emerged, wherein the best presenters were awarded.

The early shows
The flower show has been a biannual event for many years, initially presented only during the summer and winter seasons. However, in 1951, it was declared that biannual flower shows would be celebrated during the two national festivals, Republic Day and Independence Day.

In the book *Bangalore's Lalbagh a Chronicle of the Garden and the City,* author Suresh Jayaram says that the flower shows were a tradition established by the garden's superintendents and initially happened at the Bandstand. Speaking to *The Hindu*, Suresh Jayaram said, "The initial flower shows were held in and around the Bandstand and the venue was changed to the Glass House since its construction in 1891. These popular shows were held as part of the Agri-Horticultural Society's vision to promote horticulture in the region."

Animals add variety
The book also says that prizes were given across categories such as best foliage, perennials, annuals, cut flowers, and English fruits, categories which were strictly adhered to. A primary requirement was that all exhibits had to be grown locally in the then Mysore State. In a bid to add variety to the flower shows, exhibitions in 1869 and 1870 included livestock-cattle, sheep, poultry, and displays of horses of Mysore pedigree.

John Cameron, who took over as the Superintendent of Lalbagh in March 1874, initiated the establishment of the Glass House, which later became the venue for the flower shows. It is said that the structure of the Glass House was inspired by the giant Crystal Palace in London. John Cameron holds the esteemed title of the 'Father of Horticulture' in Karnataka.

With a specialization in botany and training from the Royal Botanical Garden, Kew, London, upon his arrival in India, he assumed the role of Curator at the Lalbagh Botanical Gardens. Taking on this responsibility as a challenge, he dedicated his efforts to enhancing the prominence of horticulture in the former kingdom of Mysore.

Krumbiegel's big role
Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel is another significant figure in Bengaluru's iconic flower show history. Appointed as the Superintendent of Lalbagh in 1908, he transformed the flower show into a regular and immensely popular event. He likely drew inspiration from London's Chelsea Flower Show.

According to Suresh Jayaram's book, in 1912, Krumbiegel had also introduced a floral bicycle parade. A horticulture and landscape architecture specialist, he began his career at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew, London.

Today the road between the main and the west gates of Lalbagh is named Krumbiegel Road in honour of a German botanist who was buried in Bengaluru.

Blast from the past

President R. Venkataraman planted a sapling in connection with the centenary celebrations.

Queen Elizabeth visits the Lalbagh Flower Show on February 21, 1961.

Zakir Hussain going round the horticultural section in December 1967.

Governor of Karnataka A.N. Banerjee inaugurating the Flower Clock in 1983.

Early blossoming under Hyder and Tipu

Since the 18th century, Bengaluru became a haven for the elaborate *bagh*s influenced by the Persian and Indo-Persian Charbagh tradition

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Lalbagh, a garden boasting a rich history spanning over two centuries, was initially conceived and laid out during Hyder Ali's dalavaishiip in Mysore kingdom. Its subsequent management by various British Superintendents continued until India's Independence. Lalbagh played a pivotal role in introducing and proliferating both ornamental and economically valuable plants within Bengaluru city.

Numerous accounts and M. Fazlul Hasan's book *Bangalore Through the Centuries* assert that Lalbagh drew inspiration from Pondicherry's verdant gardens. This book delves into gripping historical events and underscores the uniqueness of Lalbagh's inception. It recounts Haider Ali's enchantment with the lush gardens of the French settlement in Pondicherry, a lasting impression that fuelled his establishment of Lalbagh in Bengaluru. This act can be seen as a homage to the remarkable French gardening expertise, he notes.

Nurtured by local communities
Suresh Jayaram's book *Bangalore's Lalbagh: A Chronicle of the Garden and the City* further elaborates on the concept of historical gardens. These gardens, nurtured by local agricultural communities during Kempegowda's reign, evolved through Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan's *bagh*s (gardens) in the 18th century, culminating in the colonial gardens. Lalbagh became a convergence of multiple trajectories, blending aesthetic and economic functions, he notes.

Since the 18th century, Bengaluru became a haven for the elaborate *bagh*s of Hyder and Tipu, influenced by the Persian and Indo-Persian Charbagh tradition. These enclosed pleasure gardens, known as "*hortus conclusus*," featured systematically planted fragrant flowers and fruit-bearing trees. The hallmark of these gardens was their division into four equal parts.

The mango tree at Lalbagh said to have been planted during the time of Tipu Sultan. FILE PHOTO

The first of these *bagh*s was established by Hyder Ali, the nawab of the erstwhile princely state of Mysore. During his rule, he created three gardens, including Srirangapatna (also known as Lalbagh), Malavalli, and another in Bengaluru. Hyder Ali is credited with marking the initial boundaries of the Lalbagh Botanical Garden, located a mile east of Bangalore Fort and near the Kempegowda watchtower, built by Kempegowda II, spanning around 40 acres at that time. He drew inspiration

The first of these *baghs* was established by Hyder Ali, the nawab of the erstwhile princely state of Mysore

from the lost Mughal-style garden in Sira, near Tumakuru.

The book by Suresh Jayaram reveals that Hyder Ali was a devoted follower of Sufism, and his son Tipu was named after the Sufi saint Hazrat Tipu Mastan Auliya from Vellore, Arcot. Beyond Lalbagh's walls lies the Masjid-e-Meraj Bade Makaan and a sizable well supplying water to the shrine and its surroundings. The story goes that Hyder Ali observed the congregation of devotees arriving in bullock carts to seek the saint's blessings, prompting him to establish a garden, one of several adjoining Lalbagh, to offer shade and respite. Adjacent to the masjid is a Muslim cemetery, representing the farthest extent of the original Lalbagh. Hyder's Lalbagh followed the Charbagh layout, complete with fountains and canals, enclosed by a geometric wall protecting it from the external world.

The garden provided a multisensory experience, with water mirroring the sky and trees offering both shade and delectable fruits like pomegranates, figs, citrus, and mangoes, which attracted local birds. Flowers like jasmine and roses contributed hues and scents, offering relief from the otherwise rugged landscape, says author Suresh Jayaram.

Exotic varieties
The book also details how Hyder imported plants and trees from Delhi, Multan, Lahore, and Arcot, showcasing the diversity of species that adapted to varying climatic conditions. His son Tipu continued this tradition.

"He collected several important native and exotic species of flowers, fruits, vegetables and other plants, obtained from several far off places such as Malacca, Isle of France, Oman, Arabia, Persia, Turkey, Zanzibar, France and other European countries," notes the Horticulture Department website.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 15, 1973

Delay in President's Assent for Land Bill causes concern

Bangalore, Aug. 14: The Revenue Minister, Mr. N. Hutchamasty Gowda who left here to-day for Delhi is expected to convey to the Centre the State Government's concern over the delay in the receipt of president's assent for the Mysore Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill 1973.

It is more than a month since the Bill passed by both the Houses of the Legislature, had been sent to the Centre for assent.

The Land Reforms Bill had raised a major controversy particularly concerning the ceiling clause (providing for a range of 10-54 acres) and the right of holding land by religious and charitable institutions which was subsequently conceded in part. In the meanwhile, a delegation on behalf of the religious and charitable institutions had carried its complaint to the president pleading for full restoration of that right.

CM's Appeal to People to Keep City Clean

Bangalore, August 14: The Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs, has appealed to the people to keep Bangalore clean and enhance its beauty. Addressing a conference of Industrialists and other leading citizens in the conference hall of the Vidhana Soudha yesterday, the Chief Minister stressed the need to preserve the open spaces and prevent the indiscriminate cutting of trees. He said he was in favour of a legislative enactment to prevent such vandalism.

CITYBEATS

Independence Day special

ON TILL AUGUST 20
Windmills is having a week-long celebration to mark the Indian Independence Day. While mixologist Neil Alexander has designed a range of Indian cocktails with native spices and ingredients, chef Mandaar Sukhtankar has created dishes centered around themes of freedom with a culinary ode to Kashmir and a special a la carte menu. *At Windmills, Whitefield. Call 45217761 for reservations.*

Celebratory offer

AUGUST 15
The Boozy Griffin restaurant has come up with an offer to celebrate Independence Day – drink for ₹76 only (applicable on craft beer, mocktails and cocktails). A food coupon that comes at ₹500 is also available.
Besides this there will also be live dhol, desi music and a brightly coloured ambience.
Call Boozy Griffin in Marathahalli on 098804 37555 for more details.

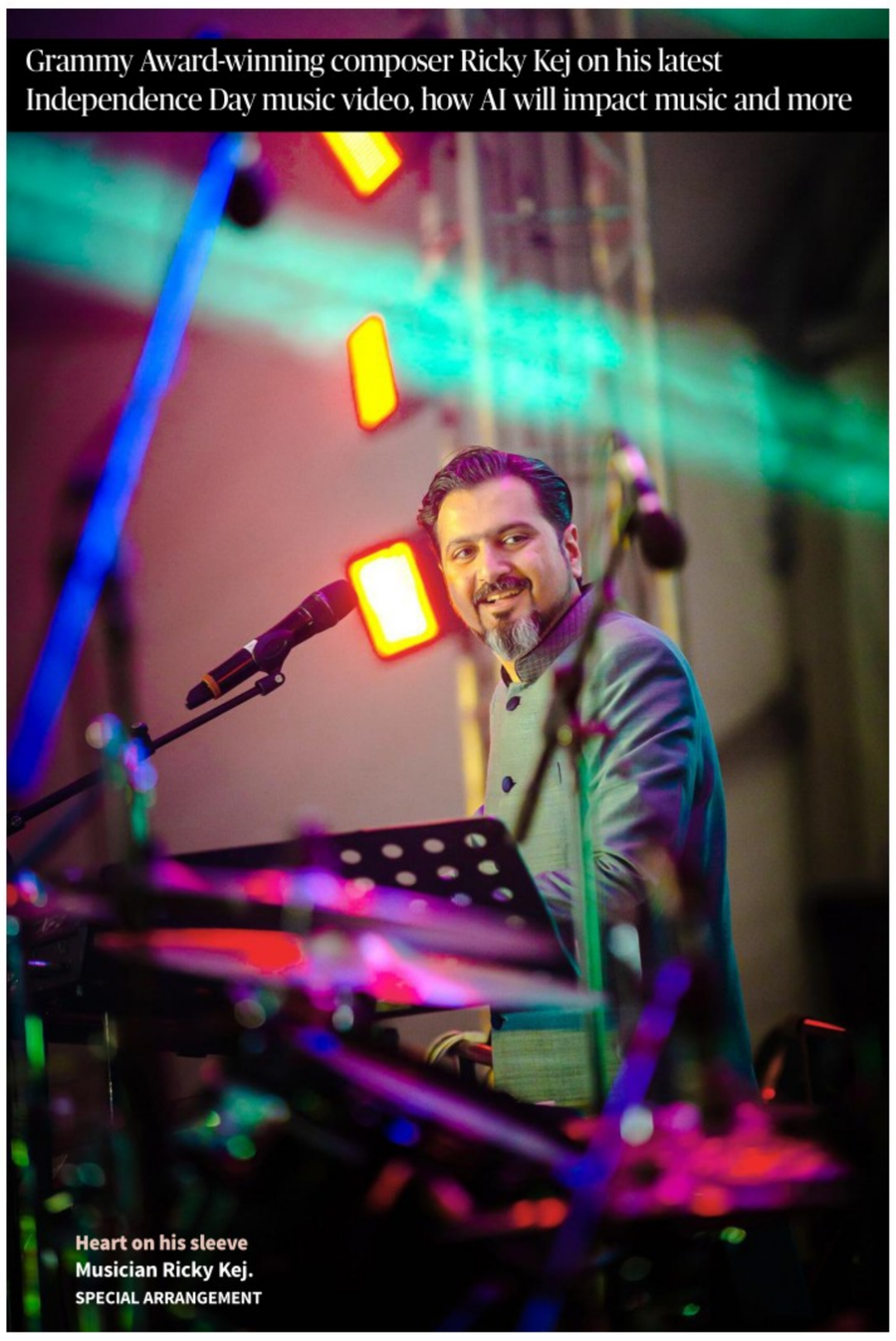
Artists with autism

ON TILL AUGUST 27
Sense Kaleidoscopes, in collaboration with Bangalore Creative Circus, presents an art exhibition by artists with autism. The show will feature the workf of seven artists: Kalash Cariappa, Rohit Anand, Tanush Pulsay, Adarsh Shetty, Anshika Sawale, Sakshi Chalke and Shreyas Pandey.
At Bangalore Creative Circus, Yeshwanthpur.

'The fabric of my music is inherently Indian'

Praveen Sudevan

Grammy Award-winning composer Ricky Kej on his latest Independence Day music video, how AI will impact music and more



Heart on his sleeve Musician Ricky Kej. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

When we call three-time Grammy Award-winning musician Ricky Kej, he is busy preparing for his upcoming concerts – 11 of them in a month, across three countries (USA, UK, and India). That is a lot, even for a Grammy Award-winning musician. But music is what Ricky loves to do. And he does it well. Amidst all the concerts, the Bengaluru-based musician is also planning something big for this year's Independence Day: performing the National Anthem with the 100-member Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the iconic Abbey Road studios in London.

Ricky has collaborated thrice with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, including on his Grammy-winning album *Divine Tides*. He regards them as the finest orchestra globally and the National Anthem, his favourite melody. So, he put the two together to create something special to mark India's 76th year of independence.

Ricky discusses what national identity means to him, how his perspective of music has changed over the years, and more.

Music transcends all boundaries. So, what does national identity mean to you?
What I've come to believe is that art is a reflection of your inner self. If you create art that is authentic to your own being, it inevitably carries your identity. In my case, my Indian essence is an inherent part of me, much like how a skilled Indian cook, when making something like pasta, will instinctively add a touch of turmeric or chilli powder to honour their roots before serving it to their family. My creations aren't just products for a paycheck; they're extensions of myself. Each composition I craft is a fragment of myself. And since I am Indian, the fabric of my music is inherently Indian too.

What is Indian in your music?
There is nothing not Indian about my music. The compositions, the instrumentation, the essence... Even a person from a remote place, who has been barely exposed to Indian music, will recognise that my music is Indian in nature.

What is your perspective of today's India?
I believe our country is making significant strides in the right direction. The current landscape reflects a profound transformation in the recognition and appreciation that I, as an Indian artiste, receive today – something not as prevalent a decade or two ago. Our concerts attract diverse audiences from around the world.

In the past, there was a perception that international recognition required English-language or Western-style musical endeavours. This sentiment steered artistes toward pop music or Western hip-hop. However, this paradigm has evolved significantly. Now, artistes are embracing their authentic identities, delving into their cultural roots. Among India's independent musicians, the majority are choosing to sing in Indian languages.

How has your meaning of music changed over the years?
I started my musical journey in 1999. Initially, music was a profession for me. For 13 years, I created scores for over 3,500 television and radio commercials. This was a period of significant success, with my compositions becoming synonymous with numerous brands.

However, a shift occurred in my musical direction afterwards. Throughout my life, two fundamental pillars have guided me: my dedication to environmental causes and my passion for music. These pillars have always influenced my decisions. During my time working on commercials, it struck me that major brands recognised the power of music as a means to convey messages and sell products. This realisation prompted me to reconsider my path. I chose to step away from commercial music and instead focus on creating compositions that align with my convictions.

Now, my musical repertoire centres around three core themes: celebrating our planet by addressing climate change and environmental concerns, advocating for social impact, and showcasing the essence of our country. My compositions now serve a purpose beyond entertainment. My music has been transformed into a powerful tool for raising awareness and spreading meaningful messages.

How has the music scene changed in India and the rest of the world?
I can observe a clear transformation over time. In the past, songs typically spanned around four to five minutes, whereas nowadays, they are often condensed to two to three minutes. This change is a response to changing audience preferences and behaviours.

Focusing on India, the musical landscape has long been associated with films. This connection has led to a belief that music must be tied to films or feature prominent actors and actresses. The desire for artistic self-expression often takes a backseat to commercial considerations.

However, a shift is gradually taking place. With the rise of music streaming platforms, where people predominantly engage with audio content, the significance of visual elements tied to music is diminishing. I hope this trend allows artistes to create music that reflects their true selves and experiences, free from external constraints.

The rise of AI has been a talking point of late. How do you think it will affect music? Do you see it as a threat?
Any advancement that contributes to the enhancement of music is significant, whether it originates from human creativity or artificial intelligence. Ultimately, the primary focus should be on serving the art form itself.

AI currently excels at generating music based on established patterns. However, it falls short of creating groundbreaking and disruptive music. This is where humans continue to have a vital role. Musicians must transcend complacency and the tendency to replicate what has already been done or follow existing trends. AI can adeptly fulfil those tasks. Instead, artistes need to adopt a disruptive mindset, striving to create art that is unprecedented and profoundly unique.

When computers were integrated into music production, there were fears that acoustic instruments would become obsolete. Yet, musicians persevered, as the irreplaceable aspects of human performance such as improvisation and emotional resonance, remained beyond the capabilities of machines. So, the focus should be on pushing boundaries, creating music that is a testament to human ingenuity, and continually going past the limits of artistic innovation.

An ambassador for short films

Shilpa Anandraj

Suman Kittur does not believe in numbers, but content – her body of work is testament to her belief. Having started as an associate director and lyricist with *Aa Dinagalu*, she went on to make her mark as director with films such as *Slum Bala, Kallara Sante, Kiragoorina Gayyaligalu* and *Edegarike* for which she won the Karanataka State Award.

The director was on the jury for international short films at the recently concluded Bengaluru International Short Film Festival (BISFF). She shared the stage with Festival Director Alejandro Gonzalez, and critic Diego Faraone.

Sumana, also a journalist, talks about the impact of short films, the industry's patriarchal mindset and more.

Edited excerpts

What has been your experience with BISFF?
I have always loved short films and have huge respect for short film makers. I am also called the short film ambassador by friends in the film world. Getting an investor on board is no child's play. Hence, instead of killing their dreams, these talents tell a visual story in a compressed form. Short films create a bridge between the maker and cinema. If we look at our film industry, there are so many directors who have made excellent short films and are now names to reckon with in long form cinema too.

Anand Varadarajan, the brain behind BISFF, deserves a shout out. He started with the Suchitra Film Society and today has created this amazing platform for short films. Earlier, we could screen short films at select places only; now, having a festival dedicated to short films accredited by The Academy Of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences in Bengaluru, is all thanks to Anand's dream.

Are there platforms for short films or do people have to wait for dedicated festivals to view them?
In Karnataka, I feel, we do not have ample screens to showcase short films. In Puducherry, when you watch a film, either before the main feature or during the interval, short films are screened. I hope this culture grows in Karnataka too. We should have more platforms and screens to promote short films here. That is the way film viewing will also change in the near future. Today, we cater to a micro audience, which looks for films that are made in a minute. All they want to know is the theme; nothing more, nothing less.

Propagating the medium Sumana Kittur. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A streaming platform had a short film festival recently. While films from all over the world were streamed, there were none from Karnataka. What do you think is the reason for this?
It is in marketing and promoting where I see a lacuna. Many are not aware of how to market their films or reach their audience, which is a pity as these filmmakers put in a lot of effort into their films using the best equipment and cameras. We need a strong group of patrons for short films. Just one Sumana talking will not make a difference. Makers, actors and producers from mainstream cinema have to promote this medium, only then we can grow collectively.

Our stereotypical mindset of thinking only of mainstream, full length features has to change. Also, film marketing and promotion should be taught.

Ashwin Achal

New innings

Origin story Cricket administrator Amrit Mathur and former India captain Anil Kumble at the book launch. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A packed house at the Bangalore International Centre enjoyed a trip down memory lane as veteran cricket administrator Amrit Mathur and former India captain Anil Kumble took centrestage for the launch event of Mathur's book, *Pitchside: My Life In Indian Cricket*.

Mathur started the evening with stories from India's historic tour to South Africa in 1992 – the first series to be played in South Africa since its excommunication 23 years earlier. Mathur, who served as the manager on that tour, said, "Ajit Wadekar was the coach, I was the manager, and Ali Irani undertook the role of physio, trainer and masseur among many others. In those days, I got my own suite in the hotel while the players shared rooms. I found it odd and embarrassing. Very often, I offered my suite to Wadekar."

From those frugal times, Indian cricket has come a long way, Mathur said. "Since Wadekar was not in the best of health, Ali and I would conduct the fielding drills. Now, the Indian team travels with a 20-strong support staff."

Mathur also had the awkward task of writing reports on player conduct. "At the end of each tour, I had to write a report. Imagine writing a report on how well behaved Anil Kumble is. I had to remark on Kapil Dev, Mohammed Azharuddin and others as well, and ended up writing generic thoughts," he said.

An amused Kumble quipped, "Players often helped managers write those reports."

Mathur stated that Kumble was the perfect example of a thorough professional. "I first saw Kumble in 1990. One thing that has remained consistent about him is his enormous dignity. For all youngsters – if you cut, copy and paste Kumble's life, you will do well," Mathur said.

Kumble spoke about the lead up to the 1996 World Cup, when a combined India-Pakistan side travelled to Colombo to take on Sri Lanka. The match was a show of solidarity, as Australia and West Indies refused to travel to Sri Lanka after a bomb blast rocked Colombo earlier that year.

Mathur served as manager during the Indian team's historic tour to South Africa in 1992

"One of our Indian players – I won't name him – was selected for the India-Pakistan joint team. He thought that if he said that he did not have a passport, he could avoid playing in this game. BCCI President at the time, Jagmohan Dalmiya said, 'Don't worry, we will go on special permission'. So the player got a special letter; he didn't have a choice but to travel to Colombo," Kumble said.

The lively session, moderated by journalist Sharda Ugra, also included speeches from former international cricketers V.V.S. Laxman and Syed Kirmani.

ISRO gearing up to launch mission to study sun

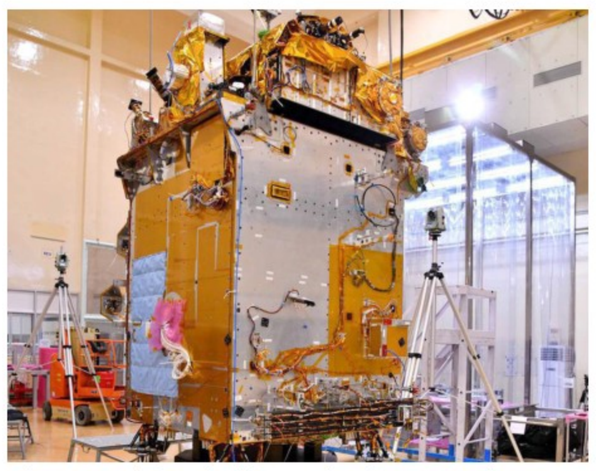
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst all the excitement surrounding India's moon mission Chandrayaan-3, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up for another launch – a mission to study the sun.

Named Aditya-L1, it will be the first space-based Indian observatory to study the sun.

The ISRO said the spacecraft was assembled and integrated at the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) in Bengaluru and delivered to the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota reportedly on Monday.

According to the ISRO, the spacecraft will be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million km from the Earth. A satellite placed in the halo orbit around the L1 point enjoys the major advantage of having a continuous view of the sun without any occultation/eclipses. This will enhance the observation of solar activity and its effect on space weather in real time.


Aditya-L1 may be launched this month-end or in September. ISRO

Seven payloads

The spacecraft will carry seven payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere and the outermost layers of the sun (the corona) using electromagnetic, and particle and magnetic field detectors.

From the special vantage point L1, four payloads will directly view the sun. The other three payloads are to carry out in-situ studies of particles and fields at the Lagrange point (L1).

Aditya L1's payloads are expected to provide crucial information to understand the problem of coronal heating, coronal mass ejection, pre-flare and flare activities and their characteristics, the dynamics of space weather, and the propagation of particles and fields.

The Aditya L1 mission will be launched by Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), which also launched Chandrayaan-1 in 2008 and the Mars Orbiter spacecraft in 2013.

The launch is likely to take place in August-end or September.

Chandrayaan on track

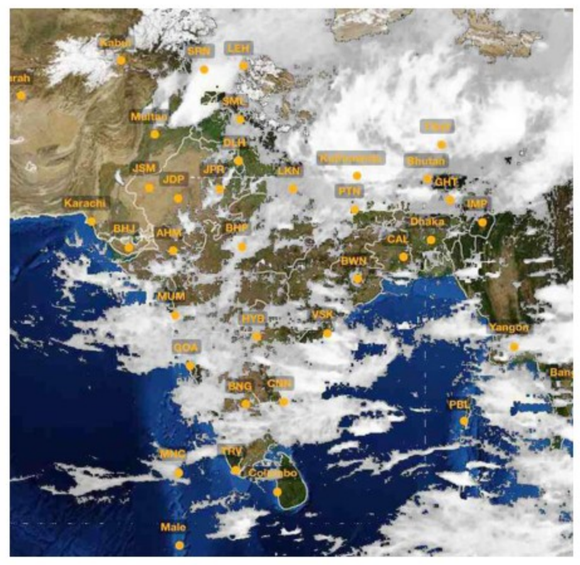
Meanwhile, the ISRO successfully carried out another orbit reduction manoeuvre of Chandrayaan-3 on Monday. The manoeuvre was performed from ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network in Bengaluru. The spacecraft is now just 177 km away from the moon.

The final orbit reduction manoeuvre to position it over lunar poles will be carried out on August 16.

The lander in the spacecraft is expected to touch down on the moon surface on August 23 at 5.47 p.m.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Sikkim, Jharkhand and Odisha. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1	32.7	25.8	Kozhikode	—	32.5	25.0
Ahmedabad	—	33.0	26.4	Kurnool	0.1	34.8	24.7
Aizawl	13	31.6	21.4	Lucknow	—	34.0	26.0
Allahabad	—	34.5	27.4	Madurai	—	36.2	24.7
Bengaluru	0.4	30.0	21.5	Mangaluru	7.8	29.0	23.6
Bhopal	1.8	—	23.6	Mumbai	1	31.7	27.0
Bhubaneswar	—	33.2	24.4	Mysuru	—	30.3	24.0
Chandigarh	4.2	32.2	26.6	New Delhi	—	35.5	26.8
Chennai	90	34.7	21.6	Patna	13.7	33.6	27.0
Coimbatore	—	33.7	23.1	Port Blair	7	29.6	25.2
Dehradun	175	28.6	22.6	Puducherry	—	33.6	27.4
Gangtok	20	22.5	17.9	Pune	—	30.4	22.3
Goa	0.2	31.3	24.2	Raipur	—	33.6	26.4
Guwahati	2	34.0	25.9	Ranchi	—	29.6	21.7
Hubballi	—	29.0	21.0	Shillong	6	23.4	18.1
Hyderabad	—	31.6	23.8	Shimla	126	20.0	16.6
Imphal	—	31.7	22.7	Srinagar	—	32.3	21.0
Jaipur	—	32.6	25.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.5	24.6
Kochi	—	30.8	25.6	Tiruchi	—	36.3	26.6
Kohima	20	21.7	18.3	Vijayawada	1	35.6	27.2
Kolkata	0.3	34.2	26.4	Visakhapatnam	0.1	33.4	27.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.32	.35	.49	57	108	
Bengaluru	5	23	.74	65	87	
Chennai	5	.44	102	53	49	
Delhi	5	5	.76	87	243	
Hyderabad	6	.35	.13	52	96	
Kolkata	.16	.34	.29	61	69	
Lucknow	6	.10	.61	55	110	
Mumbai	.32	.10	.25	67	125	
Pune	131	220	111	62	56	
Visakhapatnam	—	—	—	—	—	—

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 155 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

Our booklet exposes BJP's unfulfilled promises, says BRS

To highlight the "failures and unfulfilled promises" of the BJP government at the Centre, the Bharat Rashtra Samiti (BRS) has prepared a booklet and a CD titled '100 Lies of BJP', which was released by Municipal Administration Minister and BRS working president K.T.Rama Rao on Monday. It exposes the "failures" of the BJP including in creation of jobs, inflation, burden of GST, Internet to every household, housing for all and "promises" like setting up of Bayyaram Steel factory, Kazipet coach factory, and granting ST reservation for Valmiki and Boya among others, the party said.

BJP announces candidate for Puthuppally byelection

The Kerala BJP has announced G. Lijin Lal as its candidate for the Puthuppally Assembly byelection, which was necessitated by the death of Congress veteran Oommen Chandy. "There are several people in the constituency who have benefited from the development and welfare schemes initiated by the Modi government. We will definitely get their support," Mr. Lal, president of the BJP Kottayam district committee, told the media on Monday. During the day, UDF candidate Chandy Oommen and LDF nominee Jaick C. Thomas toured the constituency.

KCR announces waiver of farm loans of up to ₹99,999

Telangana Chief Minister K.Chandrasekhar Rao has announced waiver of loans of up to ₹99,999 in keeping with his promise to waive farm loans.

The CM made the announcement on the eve of the Independence Day on Tuesday, fulfilling the promise made by the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (now Bharat Rashtra Samithi) ahead of the 2018 Assembly election. Orders have been issued to the Finance department to credit the amounts into the accounts of farmers who obtained loans from different banks. The CM had promised to waive farm loans of up to ₹1 lakh in the run-up to the 2018 Assembly election.

T.N. moves SC for release of Cauvery water by Karnataka

Water release a dire necessity to irrigate standing crops, says Tamil Nadu govt.; Karnataka Deputy CM says State is ready to give water after considering its availability and people's requirements

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Tamil Nadu government on Monday moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to Karnataka to forthwith release 24,000 cusecs of Cauvery water from its reservoirs, at Biligundlu for the remaining period of the month, starting from August 14.

The State said the release of water is a dire necessity to irrigate the standing crops. It urged the court to direct Karnataka to ensure the stipulated releases for September 2023 (36.76 tmc ft) as per the Cauvery Tribunal award as modified by the Supreme Court in 2018.

Tamil Nadu has urged the court to ensure that Karnataka sticks to its stipulated monthly releases from the Cauvery. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The State said Karnataka should make good the shortfall of 28.849 tmc ft water during the current irrigation year for the period from June 1 to July 31.

Reacting to Tamil Nadu's move, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said: "We are ready to give water to Tamil Nadu, considering the availability of water, the State's drinking water requirements, and after understanding the feelings of our farmers. So I'm unable to understand why Tamil Nadu is showing such an urgency."

He said he will consult State's advocates and legal experts regarding the next move.

(With PTI inputs)

Leopard trapped on Tirumala trekking path

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUMALA

A leopard was captured on the Tirumala trekking path on Monday, and it is suspected to be the one that mauled a girl to death last week.

A senior forest official said the leopard walked into a cage set up at the public viewpoint in the vicinity of the Narasimha Swamy temple where the body of six-year-old Lakshita was found last Friday. The girl was killed while trekking up to the shrine along with her family. After the incident, the department set up cages at three points on the Alipiri footpath.

In June, a six-year-old boy had a narrow escape after being attacked by a leopard on the same route.

Celebrating freedom

The Vadakkunathan temple in Thrissur is aglow on the eve of the Independence Day celebrations. K.K. NAJEEB

'SAMUDRA' app will help seafarers, fishermen, says INCOIS

V. Geetanath
HYDERABAD

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), has come out with a new mobile application – Smart Access to Marine Users for Ocean Data Resources and Advisories (SAMUDRA) – offering comprehensive information on all ocean-related matters, useful for both seafarers and the fishing community.

Scientists at the institute informed that the mobile app empowers users with real-time updates and critical alerts on oceanic disasters such as tsunamis, storm surges, high waves, and swell surge alerts, for the individuals and communities to stay informed and take necessary precautions towards the protection of lives and property.

It will be especially beneficial to the fishing community as it disseminates potential fishing zone (PFZ) advisories which will guide them to the probable fish aggregation locations.

Fishermen can be guided to the most probable fish aggregation locations enabling them to maximise catch rates, and thus, improve livelihoods. The institute has also been reaching out to the community to popularise the services through interactive sessions covering both the east and west coasts.

The app is available for download via https://incois.gov.in/ samudra/. Though it is currently available in English, eight other languages are proposed to be included soon.

'Online abuse cases surged during COVID-19, AI exacerbating issue'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The surge in online abuse cases during the pandemic has raised concerns about the safety and protection of minors on digital platforms.

M.D. Sarath, Superintendent of Police, Economic Offences Division, highlighted this trend while addressing a multi-stakeholders consultation on 'Preventing and responding to online child sexual exploitation' held by the Children of India Foundation in Bengaluru on Monday.

Mr. Sarath added that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being exploited to manipulate images and videos shared online, exacerbating the issue.

"AI facilitates misuse of pictures and videos shared online. Downloading fake applications and compromise of email addresses and passwords also play a role in cyber crime. Though password management and child lock can be enabled, there are always chances that the third-party app can be hacked," he added

Speaking about the challenges faced by parents, Mr. Sarath urged them to actively engage their children in offline activities as a preventive measure against unrestricted online access.

Addressing the issue from a psychological standpoint, R. Dhanasekhara Pandian, Professor and Former Head of the Department of Psychiatric Social Work at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), spoke about the rise of mobile addiction across all age groups, including children. He highlighted the need for responsible and healthy technology usage. The conference also delved into the role of affinity and peer groups in shaping children's online behaviour.

K. Naganna Gowda, Chairperson of the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), said that the environment in which children are raised greatly influences their attitudes and actions.

Ashok V.M. Kumar, Regional Vice-President of the International Justice Mission, called upon parents to actively monitor their children's online activities.

Former president of JNCASR M.R. Satyanarayana Rao no more

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Padma Shri awardee and former President of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) Prof. M.R. Satyanarayana Rao passed away at his residence in Tata Nagar in Bengaluru on Sunday night. He was 75.

Prof. Rao, who is survived by his mother, wife and two sons, suffered a cardiac arrest. Born in Mysuru, Prof Rao obtained his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from Bangalore University. He got his PhD from the Indian Institute of Science and did his Postdoctoral Research at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, USA.

Prof M.R. Satyanarayana Rao
JNCASR

Prof. Rao's area of expertise was in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

During his long professional career, he served as Assistant Professor at Baylor College of Medicine, Chairman, Centre for Genetic Engineering and Department of Biochemistry, IISc. He was also a visiting Professor at the Harvard Medical School and Visiting Scientist at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, University of California at San Diego, USA.

He was president of the JNCASR for a decade between 2003 and 2013, post this, he served as Honorary Professor at the institute. The cremation will take place on August 15 in Bengaluru.

Contentious criteria

The Centre must revisit the PM-USHA and take on board dissenting States

By mandating States and Union Territories to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and adopt contentious academic criteria in order to avail funds under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), the Ministry of Education (MoE) appears to have made the central scheme exclusivist. The guidelines for the scheme – an improvised version of the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA 1 and 2) to ensure increased access, equity and excellence in the State higher education system with central funding – were released in June. Only 22 States and Union Territories have joined the PM-USHA, which requires a memorandum of understanding to be signed between the State and the Department of Higher Education (MoE). West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are among 14 States and Union Territories which have refused to get on board. Apart from embracing the NEP 2020, the memorandum of understanding, includes, *inter alia*, commitment from States on adopting guidelines for the National Credit Framework and Choice Based Credit System for Four Year Undergraduate Programme. Without agreeing to these conditions, States cannot avail of a share in the funds, an outlay of ₹12,926.10 crore between 2023-24 and 2025-26, earmarked to improve State-run higher education. This despite the fact that 40% of funding has to be borne by the respective State governments.

Over the past several years, a few States have strongly opposed NEP 2020, both at the draft and implementation stages. Some such as Tamil Nadu have initiated measures to draft their own State Education Policy. There are demands to restore 'education' to the State List from the Concurrent List, where it was moved without debate during the Emergency. Against this backdrop, it would appear that the conditions for the PM-USHA have been tailored to impose NEP 2020 through the backdoor. The scheme also requires adoption of the multiple entry and exit options in degree programmes and National Higher Education Qualifications Framework guidelines. This, when academic stakeholders and administrators have expressed serious concerns about the multiple entry and exit options possibly triggering more dropouts from the higher education system. The emphasis on a four-year undergraduate programme has also evoked concerns as to whether socially and economically backward students could afford the money and the time, to pursue an extra year in college to acquire a degree. Besides, even a State supporting the NEP 2020, Meghalaya, has called for a revisit of the funding criteria and an increase in the number of beneficiary units, since its State university is in the initial stage of being operational. Under these circumstances, it would be prudent for the Ministry of Education to negotiate better terms with the dissenting States, respecting the essence of cooperative federalism.

Short circuit

India dominated longer formats against the West Indies, but lost the T20Is

Dominance in Tests and ODIs and diffidence in T20Is defined India's performance during the latest tour of the West Indies. The Test series was claimed at 2-0, the ODI jousts at 2-1 while the T20I series was lost at 2-3. Against an opposition that has been on a downward spiral for a while, India was expected to romp home across all three formats. However, given the way the tour shaped up, even if status quo was largely maintained in Tests and ODIs, the T20Is threw up a lot of questions. That the conventional 50-over World Cup will be held in India across October and November while the West Indies and the United States will host the ICC T20 World Cup next year, meant that the Indian unit had to have both an immediate focus and equally a long-term vision. Yet, the signals emanating from the Caribbean proved to be mixed. Coach Rahul Dravid, a former star with impeccable credentials and enormous stature, seems to have an immunity when it comes to the perception-game which somehow eluded his predecessor Ravi Shastri even when the results under the latter were far superior. If this year's World Cup is the focus then the inexplicable resting of skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli during the second and third ODIs, seemed baffling.

In the subsequent T20Is, the squad under captain Hardik Pandya performed in a lukewarm fashion. The first two games were lost before India pulled back in the third and fourth while in the climactic fifth clash in Florida, the West Indies prevailed. The men from the Caribbean may seem dull in Tests and ODIs but in T20Is they are high on confidence. With many of its players having gained exposure from the various T20 leagues, plus with the history of having won the ICC T20 title in 2012 and 2016, the West Indies are placed better in cricket's shortest format. India may take heart from the results in the Tests and ODIs while in the T20Is, more work needs to be done. Four key players – Jasprit Bumrah, Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer and K.L. Rahul – missing in the ranks due to fitness issues, did affect the composition of India's various outfits. Bumrah is now back in the mix ahead of the Ireland tour but queries remain about who would constitute India's core group in the World Cup. Tilak Varma's runs in T20Is augur well but as the Indians return home, a sense of ambiguity lingers from their Caribbean sojourn.

A brief history of India's present

Neeti Nair

is the author of 'Hurt Sentiments: Secularism and Belonging in South Asia', 2023 and 'Changing Homelands: Hindu Politics and the Partition of India', 2011. She is Professor of History at the University of Virginia, U.S., and Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Bengal (1947). Calcutta (1964). Ahmedabad (1969). Bhiwandi (1970). Delhi (1976). Assam (1983). Delhi and Bhiwandi (1984). Meerut (1987). Bhagalpur (1989). Somnath-Ayodhya-Bombay (1990-1993). Gujarat (2002). Muzaffarnagar (2013). Delhi (2020). Manipur and Gurugram (2023). Here is a cursory list of the big ticket #riots, the ones that get column space on the front page of newspapers; the ones that make the 9 p.m. headlines night after night, even if the victims are not always remembered.

Section 144 of the Indian Penal Code dutifully imposes a curfew; Sections 153A and 295A are used to arrest those who hurt religious sentiments, and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 is to punish those who commit crimes against castes. The Model Code of Conduct is supposed to penalise those who violate a "model code of conduct" during election time. All laws (journalists, historians and political scientists have documented in painstaking detail) have been deployed selectively, politically. The suspension of the Internet is a new device, used with equal facility to curb the spread of information and misinformation (and cheating during examinations).

Old colonial laws, new independent-India-laws, newly renamed, wannabe laws. Seventy-five years of artfully maintaining "law and order", rinsing, repeating, and normalising an increasingly Hindu majoritarian status quo.

Every student of the Partition violence of 1947 has come across news reports of a physically brave Jawaharlal Nehru stepping into a mob of rioters and rescuing Muslims from being beaten to death. In 2023, we wait, count the days, weeks, months it takes for the Prime Minister to break his silence and tweet a message of condemnation over a death caused by Hindu vigilantes, or expend three minutes of time in Parliament to refer to the state of collapse in Manipur. Seventy-five years of riots have reduced our expectations so spectacularly, even of our political leadership. How did we come to such a pass? Perhaps we should reckon with a founding act of violence, and its long shadow over our polity.

Nathuram Godse

Nathuram Godse was a journalist, an editor of newspapers, and a co-founder of rifle clubs across the Bombay Presidency during the Second World War.

He was a devotee of V.D. Savarkar, the long-time leader of the Hindu Mahasabha, and fully internalised his slogan to "Militarise Hinduism and Hinduise the Military". Godse's newspapers, *Agrani*, and later *Hindu Rashtra*, had to deposit security for hate-filled writings that were deemed to breach public security in 1947. Godse killed Gandhi because he held him responsible for Partition; he wanted to create a purely Hindu Rashtra and opposed the return of Muslims to civil-war-torn-Delhi.

Godse used his defence during the Gandhi murder trial as an opportunity to narrate his version of the recent past. He spoke so persuasively that High Court judge G.D. Khosla recorded in his memoirs that had he faced a jury trial, Godse would have earned a verdict of not guilty. Godse was photogenic and articulate; in today's India, he would have worked as a journalist on television, narrating his version of events on prime time, and possibly raking in high ratings.

Godse's demand for a nation where Muslims should be rendered invisible, or forced to leave India, appears to be coming true. At least the first half of Savarkar's popular slogan – "militarise Hinduism" – has been on display in recent marches and rallies of the Bajrang Dal and allied organisations across north India.

What will the historian of the future, if we can conceive of a future for our planet, write in a history of this time 200 years from now? First, they will not be able to read parliamentary debates. Instead, they will confront endless "interruptions" and "comments expunged" from the record. Less than one handful of Members of Parliament from regional parties such as the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Trinamool Congress have been able to and permitted to speak and finish their speeches in the last decade.

Second, our historian of the future will despair at tracing the outlines of an argument as key interlocutors shift political allegiances for immediate political gains. Who said what in 2013 will hardly matter if the ground shifts so dramatically two years later. What context and set of ideological principles will explain the 180-degree about-turn of a political opponent-turned ally in record time?

Third, if equipped with an archaeologist's tools, our historian will wonder why our monuments were all suddenly being dug up... but only up to a certain stratum. Why were they not dug up to reveal an older history, a possibly Buddhist era?

Fourth, our historian will ask if we have been too slow to name this age of extreme hate, to recognise the significance of ideology in reshaping India into a Hindu Rashtra. With leaders gaining notoriety for inventing catchy hate slogans and fuelling violence and being rewarded with political office, with what credibility can political leaders request the public to pay regard to norms of civility and propriety? Hate is the new normal, the speech that is politically correct, the speech that is politically rewarded.

Life in a Hindu Rashtra

While we do not have an elaborate description of the Hindu Rashtra of Godse's desire, it is now possible to outline what such a state might look like and feel like for its citizens. A Hindu Rashtra will be a state that imposes a particular set of upper-caste Hindu norms on the entire country in the name of uniformity and homogeneity: where Muslims are afraid to "look Muslim" in public places such as trains, and in protected spaces such as schools and colleges; where Muslim homes are raided for "forensic" analysis of their refrigerator; where Muslims are prohibited from renting or buying in gated communities and neighbourhoods that are "vegetarian-only"; where Hindu festivals are celebrated in some parts of India with anti-Muslim hate speech blaring out of loudspeakers in the guise of rap music; where all Hindus are expected to provide donations for a temple regardless of their particular religious sympathies; where bulldozers target and destroy Muslim homes; where Muslim trades and businesses are boycotted (this tactic is listed in Godse's articles); where the token (assimilable) Muslim film star is feted at the same time that a Muslim cricketer abused when a match is lost and a Muslim comedian imprisoned for a joke he did not crack; where textbooks are "rationalised" to brainwash a new generation of students into believing in authoritarian leaders and a simplistic past; where the voice of justice is soft, routinely late, and ignored by the political class.

And where upper caste Hindu norms of women's subservience and seclusion are imposed on and imbibed by half a billion women, quietly. Where the plummeting rate of women in the workforce, despite increasing educational qualifications and declining fertility, leaves India in the bottom five nations of the world along with Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, and Yemen, according to the 2020 World Economic Forum Report on gender gaps in economic participation. This increasing gender gap, unique for a middle-income country, has been analysed by generations of economists including, most recently, Shrayana Bhattacharya.

A Hindu Rashtra will be a state whose fires will consume us all – Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Dalit, Buddhist, and those not deemed sufficiently Hindu. And although the ordinary Indian is putting up a brave fight to douse these fires of hate, it seems akin to throwing a bucket of water at a wildfire. We, the people of India, will have to choose between Godse's Hindu Rashtra, and the idea of India in the Constitution.

Indians will have to choose between Godse's Hindu Rashtra and the idea of India enshrined in the Constitution

India, a marvel that continues to endure

Kamal Haasan

is an actor-turned politician and founder, Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM)

Our nation, a mosaic of religious, ethnic, linguistic and cultural plurality, celebrates its modern rebirth today. This journey has been filled with love and hate, pain and joy, and highs and lows. And yet we march on. Our tryst with destiny continues.

In 1947, the western world gave only a little chance for India to survive as a democracy. How would India feed itself? How would a country so diverse remain integrated? How would a largely illiterate population function as a democracy?

The East is awakening

What the West failed to realise then was a reawakening of a civilisation with a cultural history that dates back millennia. In the 21st century, as western civilisations decline, an epoch is fading. And in its place the civilisations of the east, finally unshackled from the chains of bondage, are awakening.

The journey of modern India has not been without its ebbs and flows. What the West considered our Achilles heel, i.e., our diversity, has proven to be India's greatest strength. South and west India became the manufacturing hubs of the country, the east its resource repository, and the north its bread basket.

The founding fathers of our republic had the foresight to establish a constitutional scheme which harnessed the power of our diversity. Secularism, federalism, universal franchise, and the freedom of speech and religion created a spirit of fairness and justice that accommodated our linguistic, regional, religious divides under the rule of law.

Consequently, India engineered the green and white revolutions. We reached the stars and split the atom. We fought wars for moral reasons. Our Constitution continues to endure.

Hurdles to overcome

There have been stumbles along the way. Communal majoritarianism has reared its ugly head time and again. We continue to pay the toll for our original sin – the caste system and its poisonous inequities. While great strides have been made since Independence to achieve political, social and economic freedom, true social and economic equality eludes us.

Extreme poverty and a social marginalisation of minorities persist. The potential of the daughters of India remains trapped in the absence of a gender-equal society. The north-east remains distant from our hearts and minds and must be integrated to the mainland in spirit. Attempts to homogenise the Indian identity are gaining ground.

But my faith in our ability as a people to overcome these challenges remains steadfast, because at our core we are a just, spiritual and peace-loving people. We are the children of Buddha and Ashoka, Ambedkar and Gandhi, Thiruvalluvar and Periyar.

Democracy and freedom require constant vigil. If and when state power becomes tyrannical, every Indian must possess the courage and will to rise.

Our non-violent freedom movement brought down a racist colonial empire by unleashing the innate power that resides in the masses. The Indian polity must always imbibe its national consciousness and spirit with equality, justice and fairness towards each other. We owe this to our forefathers who made the ultimate sacrifice to achieve Independence.

Today, as technological advancements usher in knowledge democratisation, we can finally fulfil Bapu's dream of achieving Village Swaraj. Imagine the day when every village is self-sustaining, state institutions and infrastructure are capable of unleashing the potential of our demographic dividend, and Indian culture dominates the global zeitgeist.

The India of my dreams

I dream of an India where no child is born in poverty or goes to sleep hungry. I dream of an India whose universities such as Nalanda are the intellectual centres of the world again. I dream of an India whose cultural, spiritual and economic prowess reignites a race from the West to reach its shores.

Come brothers and sisters, let us make this dream a reality. I bow my head to this land and its people.

A fellow Indian.

Its journey from Independence to the modern age has had its ebbs and flows; today, the nation stands at the precipice of greatness

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jarring names

The Sanskritised names given to the new Bills in connection with the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act are a reflection of growing linguistic chauvinism gaining ground in the country, and the utter insensitivity of our rulers to the demands of a truly federal and diverse polity (Editorial, "Rebooting the codes", August 14).

It should not go unnoticed that the word 'Sanhita ' harks back to the Vedic days. The proceedings in Parliament and interventions by most of the Ministers already create an impression as if the entity 'south of the Vindhyas' does not exist. The grotesque names given to many central government programmes are already unintelligible to the South.

Manohar Alembath,
Kannur, Kerala

Renaming the three criminal laws is to be seen as a direct and forceful imposition of Hindi. When district courts function in the regional language of the respective States and when the High Court and the Supreme Court of India use English, a renaming of laws in Hindi is pointless. Changing colonial laws with the goal of updating them is fine, but change to a Hindi name is unnecessary. An attempt to impose Hindi in a country that has wide linguistic diversity is atrocious.

Sai Aparna Mushunuri,
Bengaluru

There can be no two opinions that our criminal codes have many anachronistic sections and clauses which need to be revamped or replaced. But resorting to a 'cut and paste' exercise in most parts of the codes and changing the nomenclatures to suit the Hindi-mania of the present dispensation are unwise measures. It is distressing that a surreptitious attempt is being made to force Hindi down the throats of non-Hindi speaking States.

Ayyasseri Raveendranath,
Aranmula, Kerala

Hasty passage

The purpose of a parliamentary committee is to ensure scrutiny of Bills, deter hasty legislation and to enhance the accountability of the executive to Parliament. In recent years, the government, with its assertive majority, is circumventing the scrutiny and the recommendation of the committees and is passing legislation without constructive debate. Bills passed in a hurry, later became contentious issues, increasing the ordeals of the judicial system. A responsible and accountable government is a bedrock principle of a parliamentary democracy. Executive dominance sidelining parliamentary democracy is antithetical to the vision of the founders of the Constitution.

M. Rishidev,
Dindigul, Tamil Nadu

Data needed

It is sad that our elected representatives have not realised that their actions are demoralising us. The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariat must put out data on each Member's attendance, debate participation time and walkout/abstention rate.

Gopalaswamy J.,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

The lift-out in the 'FAQ page' story on TB nutrition (August 13, 2023) should have said "In the trial, more than 85% of TB patients with extreme undernutrition (instead of more than 85% of TB patients) survived with nutritional support.

The report titled "Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar named Pakistan's new caretaker PM" (August 13, 2023), erroneously referred to Nawaz Sharif as the outgoing PM. It should have been Shehbaz Sharif.

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Democracy in India, a gift and a warning

Shashi Tharoor

is third-term MP (Congress) for Thiruvananthapuram and the Sahitya Akademi Award-winning author of 24 books, including 'The Battle of Belonging: Patriotism, Nationalism and What It Means to Be Indian' and most recently, 'Ambedkar: A Life'

Pali scripture. WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

In the 76th year of our Independence, the Prime Minister's statement welcoming G-20 delegates to "the mother of democracy" is plastered on billboards across the nation's capital. Is this claim a boast without substance? Haven't we all learned at school that Greece is where democracy originated?

With all due respect to the Greeks, both countries may have a point. Contrary to the linear narrative that democracy was invented in ancient Athens before being rediscovered and spreading around the globe in modern times, we must accept that democratic government was more common in the ancient world than many believe, even if the proportion of the population participating in Athenian democracy may have been more extensive than other places.

India's claims are shrouded in antiquity. Some see allusions to democratic forms of government in the *Rig Veda*, for that most ancient of sacred texts does mention something very similar to popular government (with references to equitable resource distribution, amicable discussion, and resolution of disputes). The *Rig Veda* has mentioned *Gramini*, the village head employed by the king for civil and military purposes; while the *Atharva Veda* refers to the institutions of *sabha*, *samiti*, *babhapati* and a *sabkasad* (primarily performing judicial functions). Nonetheless, there is really no corroborating material evidence to authenticate a claim of "democracy". On the other hand, Dr. Ambedkar's arguments in favour of such practices flourishing in the Buddhist era, a period contemporary to the Greek city-states and their republics, stand up rather better.

Whereas some saw Ambedkar, with his three-piece suit and formal English, as a Westernised exponent of Occidental constitutional systems, he was inspired far more by the democratic practices of ancient India, in particular the Buddhist *sanghas*. As chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly, Ambedkar argued that the constitutional roots of Indian republicanism ran deep. He remarked that some ancient Indian states were republics, notably those of the Lichhavis who ruled northern Bihar and lower Nepal in the sixth and fifth centuries BCE (around the Buddha's time), the Mallas, centred in the city of Kusinagara, and the Vajji (or Vriji) confederation, based in the city of Vaishali. Early Indian republicanism can be traced back to the independent *gana sanghas*, which appear to have existed between the sixth and fourth centuries BCE.

Ambedkar referred to the *Vinay-pitaka*, a Theravada Buddhist scripture, as evidence of existing democratic procedures in India. The scripture regulated meetings of the Bhikkhus (monks) and included rules for debates, motions, and voting through a secret ballot system in their *sanghas*.

The Greek historian Diodorus Siculus, describing India at the time of Alexander the Great's invasion in 326 BCE (though he was writing two centuries later), recorded that independent and democratic republics existed in India. They seemed, however, to include a monarch or a *raja*, and a deliberative assembly that met regularly and discussed all major state decisions. The *gana sanghas* had full financial, administrative, and judicial authority and elected the *raja*, who therefore was not a hereditary monarch. The *raja* reported to the assembly and in some states, was assisted by a council of other nobles.

The Buddhist scriptures in Pali provide a vivid depiction of the city-state of Vaishali during the fifth century BCE and describe the different groups that managed their own affairs. Some of these groups were probably warrior formations; others were groups with avowed economic aims; some were religious fraternities. These organisations, of whatever type, were usually designated as *gana* or *sangha*, while less important political structures were known by such terms as *sreni* (guilds).

The terms *gana* and *sangha* initially meant "multitude", but by the sixth century BCE, these words came to mean a self-governing multitude. In this system, all decisions were taken by the *sangha* members themselves, and the governing style was stabilised by conventions applicable to such groups. The strongest of these groups functioned as sovereign governments, very similar to republics.

While hailing all this, Ambedkar was somewhat more sceptical of the Gandhian ideal of the self-governing village republic. He saw villages as 'cesspools' of caste oppression and social and economic backwardness, considering, from a Dalit point of view, the Indian village to be 'a sink of localism, a den of ignorance, narrow-mindedness and communalism'. It is true that a sort of democracy prevailed in ancient Indian villages: Kautilya's *Arthashastra* gives a comprehensive account of the system of village administration prevailing in antiquity, and evidence of the village panchayats is also discerned in the Mauryan and Chola dynasties and during the golden era of the Gupta period.

The advent of democracy may be popularly placed in ancient Greece, but India has as much claim to the 'mother of democracy' tag

But Ambedkar was right to point to a major flaw in ancient India's democratic practice, the omission of an entire class of people. As he explained it: 'Indian villages represent a kind of colonialism of the Hindus designed to exploit the Untouchables. The Untouchables have no rights. They are there only to wait, serve and submit. They are there to do or to die. They have no rights because they are outside the village republic and because they are outside the so-called republic, they are outside the Hindu fold.'

However, such omissions also existed in Greece, where people classified as slaves and barbarians exercised no rights; and till well into the 20th century, an even larger community of people was excluded from all forms of democratic practice everywhere – women. Within the restricted category of male citizens, therefore, the ancient Indian village republics were just as democratic as the city-states of ancient Greece.

American political scientist David Stasavage has persuasively argued that efforts to create institutions that limited the power of any one actor in the political system are to be found in many parts of the world in the remote and the recent past; no single society can claim credit for it. As a corollary to Stasavage's argument, Indian democracy is as ancient as Greek democracy and both evolved independently, as did other states with assemblies throughout the rest of the world. Instead of conceiving of democracy as something that was invented, it is better to think of it as one of the elemental forms of government common to all of humanity. Democracy is our gift to ourselves – though of course, we must protect it, since like all gifts, it can also be snatched away.

Ambedkar constantly expressed fear that the democracy he had helped create in the Constitution could be undemocratically transformed: 'It is quite possible for this new-born democracy to retain its form, but give place to dictatorship in fact. If there was a landslide of popular support, the danger of that possibility becoming an actuality is much greater.' Amid all the self-congratulation, it is fair to say that we have been warned.

(Armaan Mathur assisted in the preparation of this article.)

Select metrics of India @76

India's ranking in Human Development Index has slipped three places among nations compared

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan
Rebecca Rose Varghese

Today, India observes its 77th Independence Day. This analysis measures India's relative performance in the past 76 years compared to other countries across four parameters – GDP per capita, Human Development Index (HDI), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and women's participation in Parliament. Owing to technological advancement and infrastructural development, India and other countries have made remarkable progress in the past seven and half decades. So it becomes imperative to look at where India stood compared to other nations around the time of independence and where it stands now among them.

India is compared with these countries: BRICS (Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa), G-7 countries (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States), emerging economies (Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates) and the Indian subcontinent (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka).

Chart 1 compares GDP per capita (in $) of 26 countries between the 1960s and 2022. India's GDP per capita ranking of 24 out of 26 nations analysed remained unchanged between the 1960s and 2022. While Indonesia and Nepal were lagging behind India in the 1960s, Pakistan and Nepal were lagging behind in 2022.

Chart 2 compares the Human Development Index of 31 countries between 1950 and 2021.

India's HDI increased by 0.11 points in 1950 to 0.633 in 2021. However, India's ranking slipped from 26 in 1950 to 29 by 2021. Of the five countries which lagged behind India in 1950, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Bangladesh–moved ahead by 2021, with scores of 0.87, 0.7 and 0.66 respectively.

Chart 3 compares infant mortality rate in 32 countries between 1960-1975 and 2021. Between 1960 and 1975, India had the seventh-worst IMR among these 32 nations. In 2021, India regressed four spots and became the third-worst. Of the six countries which were behind India in 1960-75, five (Turkey, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Egypt and Nepal) surpassed India by 2021. However, South Africa regressed.

Chart 4 compares the share of women in Parliament in 31 countries between 1997 and 2022. Women's participation in India increased from 7% in 1997-98 to 14.9% in 2022. Over 10 countries were behind India in this indicator in 1997-98. In 2022, only five remain below India.

In case of other indicators like access to electricity and usage of the internet, India has had significant progress. Between 1993 and 2000, only 50% of India's population had access to electricity. By 2020, this increased to 99% of its population. A majority of the 32 countries considered provided electricity to over 99% of their population by 2020, except for Pakistan, South Africa and Nepal where the share remains below 90%. In 1990, almost no country considered, except for the U.S., had any access to the Internet. But by 2020, India has managed to provide internet access to 43% of its population. While India lags behind 27 countries in this indicator, Bhutan (53.5%) is the only country in the subcontinent that is ranked above India.

In 1960, with a population of 45.05 crore people, India had the second-highest population behind China (66.7 crore). By the end of 2022, India's population stood at 1.417 billion, surpassing China's 1.412 billion, making India the most populous country in the world, according to the World Population Review.

Progress card

The data for the charts were sourced from The World Bank and Our World in Data

- India
- BRICS nations
- G7 countries
- Emerging economies
- Indian subcontinent

Chart 1 | The chart compares GDP per capita (in $) of 26 countries between the 1960s and 2022

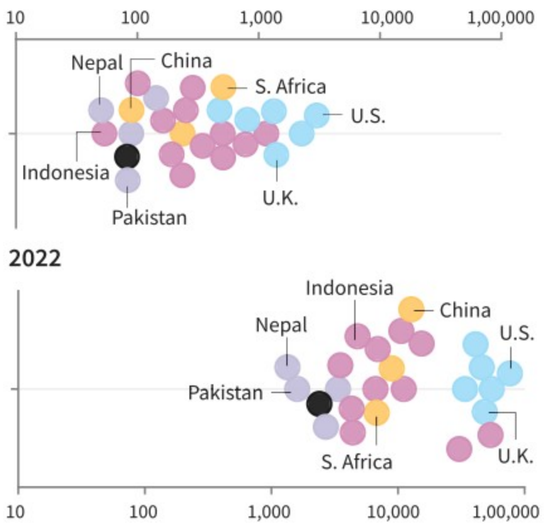


Chart 3 | The chart compares infant mortality rate in 32 countries between 1960-1975 and 2021

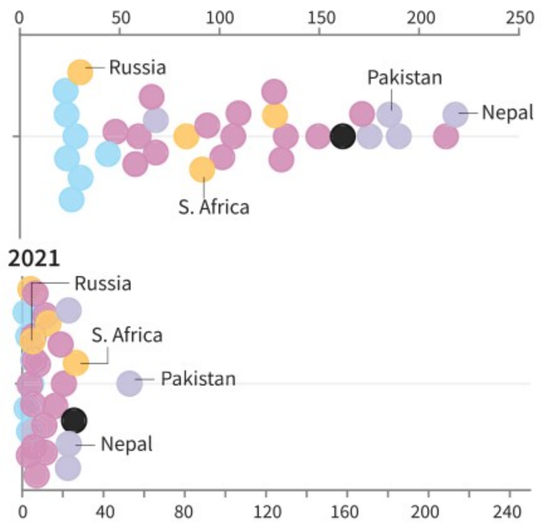


Chart 2 | The chart compares the HDI of 31 countries between 1950 and 2021. It is measured on a scale of 0 to 1

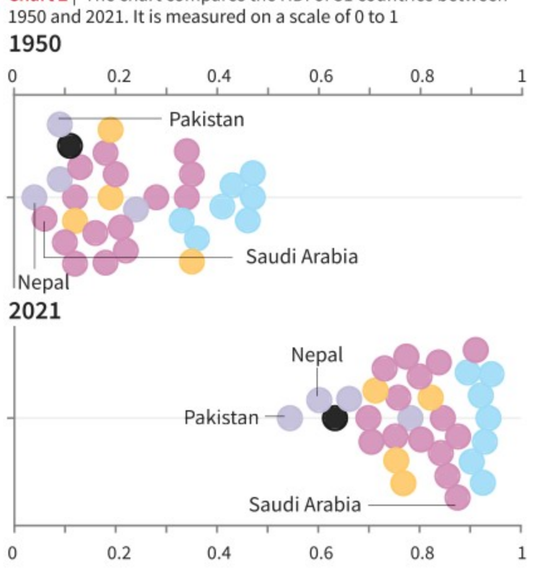
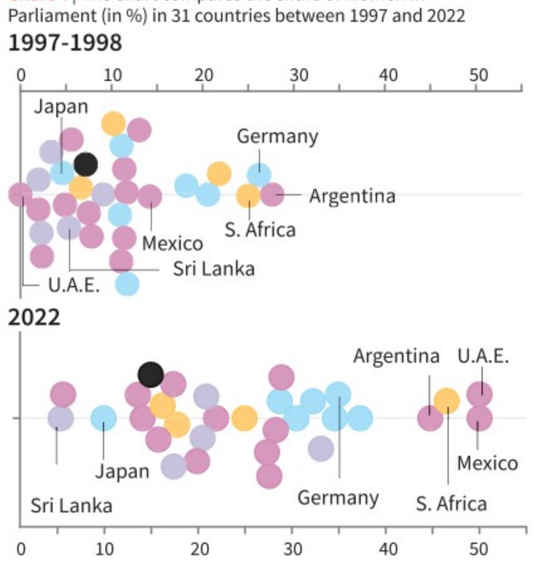


Chart 4 | The chart compares the share of women in Parliament (in %) in 31 countries between 1997 and 2022



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 15, 1973

Moratorium on Strikes

FROM G. K. REDDY
NEW DELHI, Aug. 14.
The President, Mr. V. V. Giri, has made a fervent appeal for discipline, dedication, a spirit of sacrifice, a sense of participation, and unity of purpose and action in meeting the many challenges now facing the nation.
In his Independence Day message to the people broadcast over All India Radio to-night, he called for a three-year moratorium on strikes and lock-outs and the creation of congenial industrial climate in the country for increased production, which was so essential for breaking the present vicious circle of acute shortages and abnormal prices.
Mr. Giri denounced strongly the rapacious practices of the unscrupulous elements in the country which were taking advantage of the present difficulties to indulge in hoarding, profiteering and other anti-social acts.
The President also admonished the selfish politicians who were subverting the mandate of the people to suit their personal ambitions.
The President stressed that, in addition to an all-out effort for stepping up agricultural and industrial production, an effective remedy for the price rice problem would be an extensive network of controlled markets operating through consumer co-operatives and fair price shops situated in both urban and rural areas.
He suggested that in this context that citizens' committees should be oraganised in towns and villages for assisting the official agencies in procuring supplies and feeding the public distribution system.
The President said that drought, floods and cyclones, which came to all countries as part of nature's ways, should not be allowed to put back the clock of progress as it was within the people's power to overcome them.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 15, 1923

In Turkey.

(REUTER'S AGENCY.)
CONSTANTINOPLE, Aug. 13.
A message from Angora says that the National Assembly has elected Mustapha Kemal Pasha as its President, Alifuad Pasha, second President, Sabbi Bey, first Vice-President and Ismet Pasha, second Vice-President. The last named was accorded an enthusiastic reception when he arrived here.

From Page One

At least 51 killed as rain, landslips rock Himachal

Along with the Army, personnel from the SDRF, NDRF, ITBP, the State police and others were involved in relief and rescue works, an official statement said.

Several parts of the State capital was without power supply since Sunday night as landslips and falling trees damaged power lines. Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla also visited the landslip- and cloudburst-hit sites, officials said.

Cloudburst

At Jadon village of Solan district, seven members of a family were killed in a cloudburst on Sunday night. Two houses were washed away following the cloudburst.

In Balera panchayat of the district, two children died as their makeshift house collapsed in a landslip. Another woman died in a landslip in Banal village of Ramsheher tehsil, said Deputy Commissioner of Solan Manmohan Sharma.

In Mandi district, seven members of a family, including a two-year-old, were killed in a landslip late on Sunday night. Three persons were rescued, Deputy Commissioner Chaudhary said.

Six bodies have been recovered at Sambhal near Pandoh. The bodies are yet to be identified, the Deputy Commissioner said, adding two deaths have been reported from the Dharampur area. Some parts of Balh area and Nerchowk in Mandi were inundated. One boy died in Sirmaur district, according to reports.

In Kangra, heavy rain claimed the lives of two persons, including an 11-year-old boy, District Magistrate Nipun Jindal said.

In Hamirpur district, four persons died in the rain havoc, officials said. Hamirpur Deputy Commissioner Hemraj Bairwa said two persons were missing. He appealed to all the residents of the district to take special precautions in view of the calamity.

One person was swept away by the flood waters while two others were rescued on Sunday night.

The State has suffered losses estimated at ₹7,171 crore since the onset of the monsoon on June 24, as per the state emergency operation centre.

Retail inflation surges from 4.87% to 7.44%

Food prices were up 6.7% month-on-month.

July's inflation print, which surpassed most economists' estimates, breaks a four-month streak below the central bank's 6% tolerance threshold for consumer price rise and threatens to upend its recent 6.2% average inflation projection for the July to September quarter.

A slight let-up in tomato prices this month may help cool the inflation trend a little in August, but elevated pulses, spices (up 21.6%), milk (up 8.34%) and cereal prices remain a concern.

"In its latest credit policy, the Reserve Bank of India said it will be ready to act if conditions warrant action. Would 7% inflation for two successive months cause the trigger to be pulled?" said Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis. An interest rate hike cannot be ruled out even though its probability is still low, he noted.

However, hopes of interest lower rates may be deferred further, with rating firm ICRA expecting the earliest cut around the second quarter of 2024-25 with "a fairly shallow" rate cut cycle of about 50-75 basis points from the current levels. One basis point equals 0.01 per cent.

Meanwhile, wholesale prices remained in deflationary mode for the fourth month in a row in July, but prices of food and primary articles spiked by over 7.5%, narrowing the overall price dip sharply to -1.36% from the 92-month low of -4.1% recorded in June. At the wholesale level, inflation in primary food articles hit 14.3%.

Centre approves two inter-State routes for helicopter services

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government has now approved two inter-State routes for the helicopter services started for people affected by the ethnic conflict that broke out in the State in early May.

The Union Home Ministry notified the State government in its letter of August 11 that the approved new routes include one from Churachandpur to Aizawl in Mizoram, and another from Kangpokpi/Senapati to Dimapur in Nagaland.

Since the conflict began on May 3, the violence pushed the Kuki-Zomi people, who had settled in the Imphal Valley, back to their respective hill districts, and the Meitei people settled in the hill districts back to the Valley area. Neither community has been able to use the road to travel within the State for fear of violence from the other community.

In the wake of this division of the State's population along ethnic lines, helicopter services, under a subsidy scheme, were introduced between Churachandpur and the Imphal airport on the assurance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who had received this demand during his visit to the State at the end of May.

The Union government said the new routes were being added for operation under the existing subsidy scheme, which requires passenger to pay a charge of ₹2,000, with the State and Central governments bearing the rest of the fare. The government added that in-principle approval had also been granted for extra flying hours in light of the new routes being added.

Ginza Vualzong of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum acknowledged the opening of the new routes.

India, China hold 19th round of Corps Commander talks

Previous rounds of talks had stalled over disengagement at Depsang and Demchok; fresh discussions at the Chushul meeting point come less than a month ahead of G-20 Leaders' Summit

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and China on Monday held the 19th round of Corps Commander-level talks at Chushul as part of the ongoing efforts for overall disengagement and de-escalation to resolve the stand-off in eastern Ladakh.

The talks come a day before Independence Day and less than a month ahead of the G-20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi.

The talks began at 9.30 a.m. on Monday at the Chushul border meeting point on the Indian side and ended at 5.30 p.m., a defence official said. As has been the case in the past, a statement on the outcome of the talks is expected in a day or two.

The Indian side was led by Lt. Gen. Rashim Bali, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Leh-based 14 Corps.

Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are scheduled to attend the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg on August 22-24. PTI

Five friction points

The last round of the Corps Commander talks was held on the Chinese side on April 23. Since the Corps commander-level talks began in 2020, the two sides have undertaken disengagement from five friction points – Galwan, the north and south banks of Pangong Tso, and Patrolling Points (PP) 15 and 17A in the Gogra-Hot Springs area. The last few rounds of talks have stalled over disengagement from the Depsang Plains and Demchok, with China insisting that they predate the 2020 stand-off.

It is expected that Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the G-20 summit on September 9 and 10.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are scheduled to attend the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on August 22-24.

Last month, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval in Johannesburg and with Mr. Jaishankar in Jakarta.

India has on several occasions reiterated that the bilateral relationship cannot go back to normal as long as the stand-off continues.

Academic gets two weeks' protection from arrest

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday gave Hyderabad University Professor Kham Khan Suan Hausing two weeks' protection from coercive action in criminal proceedings instituted against him following his interview on Manipur to an online news portal.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud said the order would give Mr. Hausing "breathing time" to seek appropriate relief from the court concerned in Manipur.

Mr. Hausing was represented by senior advocate Anand Grover and advocates Anju Thomas and Aastha Sharma. His petition said the Imphal East Chief Judicial Magistrate had summoned him.

Mr. Hausing is accused of several offences, including promoting of enmity, outraging religious feelings, under the Indian Penal Code.

The Professor had urged the apex court to protect him from baseless allegations that he was not a citizen of India.

SC to consider giving more 'bite' to media regulations, suggests raising penalty

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said a fine of just ₹1 lakh is hardly a deterrent for television channels which indulge in unethical conduct on air, and the fine should ideally be more than the profits the media outlets make from the entire show.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud noted that the ₹1 lakh fine fixed in 2008 had not been revised since.

The court issued notice to the National Broadcasters and Digital Association (NBDA), an independent electronic media watchdog, the Centre and other respondents on the question of "strengthening the framework" of regulations.

"We are as much concerned about free speech as the channels are... but you presume guilt of a person in your shows and not innocence of the person until he or she is proven guilty... Media went berserk after that actor's [Sushant Singh Rajput] death... you virtually preempt the entire investigation," the Chief Justice said.

> How will a fine of ₹1 lakh deter an errant channel? This amount was fixed 15 years ago, have you [NBDA] not thought of revising it?
>
> **D.Y. CHANDRACHUD**
> Chief Justice of India

Senior advocate Arvind P. Datar, appearing for the NBDA along with advocate Nisha Bhambhani, said he would consult Justice A.K. Sikri (retired), the current NBDA chairperson, and former NBDA head, Justice R.V. Raveendran (retired), on how to put "some bite" into its regulations.

"If at the end of all this violation, you [NBDA] are going to impose ₹1 lakh fine, which channel is going to be motivated? Your fine must be more than the profits a channel makes from the entire show. We do not want any censorship over the media, but the fine should be effective... The government does not want to be in this space. You are expected to self-regulate your content. How will a fine of ₹1 lakh deter an errant channel? This amount was fixed 15 years ago, have you not thought of revising it?" Chief Justice Chandrachud asked NBDA.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, said NBDA was only one of the regulatory bodies.

Mr. Mehta said the Court had to intervene to lay down comprehensive regulatory guidelines on ethical conduct on air.

He added that some time ago, with the intervention of the Delhi HC, press officers were appointed to brief the media daily in order to avoid unnecessary sensationalism.

Centre recognised the right of Nagas to integration: Muivah

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Thuingaleng Muivah, general secretary of the Isak-Muivah faction of the extremist National Socialist Council of Nagaland, said New Delhi has officially acknowledged the right of the Nagas to be integrated.

The outfit calls itself the National Socialist Council of Nagalim, or NSCN (I-M). The integration of all Naga-inhabited areas in Northeast India and Myanmar into a single administrative unit called Greater Nagalim has been its long-term demand.

"On the issue of the integration of all Naga areas, the Government of India has officially acknowledged that it is the legitimate right of the Nagas and therefore, it shall be finalised accordingly," Mr. Muivah, also the "Ato Kilonser [Prime Minister]" of the NSCN (I-M), said in his speech during the celebration of the 77th "Naga Independence Day".

He presided over the function at Hebron, the outfit's council headquarters.

Thuingaleng Muivah

There are more than 50 Naga tribes inhabiting Nagaland and large swathes of Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam, besides Myanmar. The other northeastern States are opposed to the idea of a greater Naga homeland that threatens their territorial integrity.

Mr. Muivah said there was no ambiguity in the NSCN (I-M)'s demand for a Naga national flag and a Naga constitution, which are believed to have come in the way of a permanent settlement to the "Naga political issue" despite the signing of the Framework Agreement with Centre on August 3, 2015.

He said Nagas are sovereign people who have been living in their own land for ages.

J&K terror ecosystem dismantled, says L-G Sinha

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

J&K Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha on Monday said security forces were hitting the last nail in the coffin of terrorism in Kashmir.

Speaking during a function in central Kashmir, Mr. Sinha said the conflict tag of Kashmir was a great business opportunity for some people, "whose first preference was to fill their own pockets".

He said the security forces are hitting the last nail in the coffin of terrorism.

"Terror ecosystem is being dismantled fully to make peace a permanent feature in J&K. Separatism, terrorism and street violence are a thing of the past," he said.

Cong. MP seeks to move privilege motion against BJP MP Rathore

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha member and Congress leader Manickam Tagore on Monday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to move a privilege motion against BJP MP Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore for his remarks against the Gandhi family, while the Privileges Committee of the Lower House will meet on Friday to examine the complaint of gross misconduct against Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

In the no-confidence debate, the BJP MP had said Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, during the 2008 Beijing Olympics, had failed to meet Indian athletes but met with the Chinese Communist Party officials.

Congress MP Manickam Tagore speaks in the Lok Sabha. The MP wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker to move a privilege motion. FILE PHOTO

"Such a statement, made by a Member of Parliament, carries significant weight and can sway public opinion. It is imperative that actions are taken to address this issue promptly," Mr. Tagore said in his letter to Mr. Birla.

"False information and deliberate fabrication with mischievous intent not only undermine the sanctity of the House but also erode the faith of citizens in their elected representatives," he added.

Mr. Tagore's move against the BJP MP comes days ahead of the Privileges Committee meeting later in the week to deliberate on the motion adopted by the Lok Sabha on August 10 against Mr. Chowdhury for his remarks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

During the no-confidence motion, Mr. Chowdhury had referred to the *Mahabharata* and said the king should not be blind to what was happening against women, be it in Hastinapur or Manipur.

To explain the Prime Minister's silence on Manipur, Mr. Chowdhury said he had become *nirav*.

Describing Mr. Chowdhury's actions as "habitual" and "deliberate", Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi moved a resolution against and referred the matter to the Privileges panel headed by BJP MP Sunil Kumar Singh.

"I am *adhir* [impatient] to meet the members of the Privileges panel," Mr. Chowdhury had told reporters on Saturday.

Supreme Court fixes Aug. 18 to hear appeals against Bihar caste-based survey

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Govt. issued a notice on August 1, within hours of HC order, to complete the survey within three days

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear on August 18 multiple petitions claiming that the Bihar caste-based survey was an attempt by the Nitish Kumar government to "usurp" the Centre's powers.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, the petitioners, represented by a battery of lawyers led by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, urged the court to stay the implementation of the Patna High Court decision allowing the State government to go ahead with the survey.

The Bench said any prohibitory move by the court at this stage would indirectly amount to a stay without hearing the State government side.

The petitioners submitted that the government had issued notice on August 1, that is, within hours of the High Court order, to complete the survey within the next three days.

"This issue will become infructuous if we wait till August 18," a lawyer submitted

Mr. Rohatgi urged the court to step in immediately.

"But it will be an indirect stay without hearing the other side or the application of mind. We do not want that. We will hear you all on August 18," Justice Khanna addressed the petitioners.

The petitions have appealed against a Patna High Court decision on August 1, upholding the legality of the State's June 6, 2022 order notifying the survey. They contended that the State lacked the competence to issue the survey notification.

"The notification is against the constitutional mandate of distribution of powers between the State and the Union Legislature," the petitioners said.

The petitioners said the survey violated Schedule VII of the Constitution, the Census Act, 1948 and the Census Rules, 1990.

Efforts on to modernise armed forces, says Rajnath

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre is making all efforts to modernise the armed forces with state-of-the-art weaponry and the best training, to protect the country from all future challenges, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in his customary radio address to the forces on the eve of Independence Day.

"The armed forces can give their best only when they are provided with the best equipment and training. These steps boost the morale of the soldiers, help them overcome challenges and emerge victorious," Mr. Singh said.

"New branches and trades are being created according to the new emerging needs," Mr. Singh said. He said forces were being trained with simulators and other modern techniques and their capabilities were being enhanced through several exercises with friendly countries across the globe, training on niche systems, newly developing technologies and changing concepts of warfare was the need of the hour.

Dignified life

He said special attention was being paid to ensure a dignified life for the soldiers not only during service but even after retirement. "Taking care of those who care for us by risking their lives is our responsibility," he said.

Stressing the role of soldiers in maintaining sovereignty, he said, "We not only seek peace but also express our commitment to peace through our actions. But at the same time, we are also very clear that if anyone dares to look at us with ill intention or hostility, our forces will give a befitting reply."

President urges citizens to move ahead with harmony, brotherhood

On eve of 77th Independence Day celebrations, Murmu says identity of being an Indian citizen towers above all others; she says the Constitution is the nation's guiding document and its Preamble contains the ideals of the Freedom Struggle

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Underscoring that the Constitution is the nation's guiding document and its Preamble contains the ideals of the Freedom Struggle, President Droupadi Murmu on Monday said that the identity of being an Indian citizen stood above all other identities, and urged the people to move ahead with the spirit of harmony.

She was addressing the nation on the eve of the 77th Independence Day.

"Let us move forward with the spirit of harmony and brotherhood to realise the dreams of our nation-builders," she said on Monday. Her emphasis on harmony was significant against the backdrop of the Manipur conflict and the communal clashes at Nuh in Haryana, though she did not mention any State.

Message to nation: President Droupadi Murmu addressing the nation on the eve of the 77th Independence Day on Monday. PTI

Stressing the importance of August 15, Ms. Murmu said, "What we celebrate on Independence Day is the fact that we are part of a great democracy. Each of us has many identities – apart from caste, creed, language, and region, we are also identified with our families and professions – but there is one identity that is above all. That is our identity as citizens of India". "Each one of us is an equal citizen; each one of us has an equal opportunity, equal rights and equal duties in this land," she said.

She noted that inflation remained a concern globally, but said the government and the Reserve Bank of India managed to contain it. "The government has succeeded in protecting the common people from high inflation, while also providing a more extensive security cover to the poor."

Asserting that India's standing in the international order had gone up, the President focused on how India's Presidency of the G-20 group could shape the global discourse. She said India had proved that leadership could result in effective action to solve issues that concerned humanity which were not limited by geographical boundaries.

Her speech had a clear focus on empowering women through their economic empowerment. She highlighted the role of women freedom fighters, and noted the participation of women in fields that were earlier "unimaginable".

Ms. Murmu also called for urgent attention of scientists and policymakers towards climate change which was resulting in frequent floods or drought, saying the "culture of greed" was taking the "world away from nature". "I know that there are still many tribal communities which live very close to nature and in harmony with it. Their values and lifestyle offer invaluable lessons for climate action," she said.

Lauding the Chandrayaan-3 mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation, Ms. Murmu said she was looking forward to the landing of the lander Vikram and rover Pragyan on the moon. "But the mission to the moon is only a stepping stone for our future space programmes," she said.

She said the National Education Policy, 2020 had started making a difference. "From my interactions with students as well as educationists at various levels, I gather that the learning process has become more flexible."

CRPF officer wins President's Police Medal for Gallantry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer is the lone recipient of the President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) announced on the eve of Independence Day on Monday.

The PPMG was announced for Assistant Commandant Loukrakpam Ibomcha Singh, from Manipur.

The PPMG is awarded for conspicuous gallantry in saving life and property, or in preventing crime or arresting criminals. This is his second PPMG. He was given the award for an operation in 2020 in Kashmir when he killed an alleged terrorist.

A total of 954 police personnel have been awarded police medals. The Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) has been awarded to 229 personnel, the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PPM) to 82 and the Police Medal for Meritorious Service to 642.

Of the 230 gallantry awards announced on Monday, 125 are for personnel deployed in areas affected by left-wing extremism, 71 from the Jammu and Kashmir region, and 11 from the northeast region.

Among the gallantry award recipients, 28 are from the CRPF, 33 from the Maharashtra Police, 55 from the J&K Police, 24 from the Chhattisgarh Police, 22 from the Telangana Police and 18 from the Andhra Pradesh Police. The remaining are from the other States and the Central Armed Police Forces.

Four Border Security Force personnel – sub-inspector Anurag Ranjan, head constable Abdul Hamid Rather, and constables Amarjeet Singh and Navjot Singh – were awarded the PMG for averting an infiltration bid along the Line of Control (LoC) in November 2020. A constable, Sudip Sarkar, was killed in the incident.

Modi, Shah pay tributes to victims of Partition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

On the eve of Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to those who lost their lives during Partition.

The Modi government, in 2021, announced that the day would be marked as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.

"It is an occasion to remember the Indians who lost their lives during Partition. This day is also a reminder of the tribulation and struggle of those who were forced to migrate," Mr. Modi said.

Narendra Modi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah too paid respects to victims.

"The Partition of the country on the basis of religion in 1947 is a dark chapter in history. The country had to pay a heavy price for this and many people are still facing the brunt of this horror. Today, on Partition Horrors Remembrance Day, I pay tributes to all those people who lost their lives and their family members due to the partition," Mr. Shah said.

CBI officials awarded 20 President's Police Medals

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

CBI officials have been awarded 20 President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service and Police Medal for Meritorious Service on the occasion of Independence Day.

The President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service have been conferred on six officials and Police Medals for Meritorious Service to 14.

President approves four Kirti Chakras, 11 Shaurya Chakras

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Kirti Chakra, the second-highest peacetime gallantry award in the country, will be awarded to four personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force killed in action during an anti-Naxal operation in Chhattisgarh in April 2021.

Eleven personnel – nine from the Army and one each from the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the CRPF – will receive the Shaurya Chakra, the third-highest peacetime gallantry award. Five of them have been named posthumously.

These are among the 76 gallantry awards for armed forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel approved by President Droupadi Murmu on Monday.

The awards include 54 Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), and four Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry), the Defence Ministry said.

"The President has also approved 30 Mention-in-Despatches to the Army, including to Army dog Madhu (Posthumous), and one to Air Force personnel for their significant contributions in different military operations," it said.

The posthumous recipients of the Kirti Chakra are Dilip Kumar Das, Raj Kumar Yadava, Bablu Rabha and Sambha Roy.

The President approved one President's Tatrakshak Medal and five Tatrakshak Medals to Indian Coast Guard personnel.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-13 / 2023-24

1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below:
2. Nature of work : **Road works**
3. No. of work : **15 Nos.**
4. Tender Paper Cost : **Rs.10,000.00**
5. Class of Contractor : **A Class / Special Class / Super Class**
6. Available of bid document in the website. : From **10.00 A.M. of 17.08.2023** to **05.30 PM of 07.09.2023**.
7. Date of opening of Bid : **Dt.08.09.2023 at 11.30 AM**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tenderodisha.gov.in** . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha (I/C).
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR
B-686 : OIPR-34111/11/0026/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN,
AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:-MAYURBHANJ. Mail Id : cebmsbb2019@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.- 17/23-24 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

1	Name of Work	:	Raising & strengthening of Parikhi T.R.E. Saline Embankment.
2	Estimated Cost	:	Rs.1470.37 Lakh
3	Bid Security / E.M.D.	:	Rs.14,70,400/-
4	Period of Completion	:	18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months
5	Class of Contractor	:	"A" Class & "Special" Class
6	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	:	28.08.2023 at 10.00 AM
7	Last date / time for receipt of bid in the portal	:	18.09.2023 up to 5.00 PM
8	Date of opening of bid	:	19.09.23 at 11:00 A.M.
9	Name & Address of the O.I.T.	:	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal **"https://tendersodisha.gov.in"** .
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager
A-424: OIPR-32074/11/0030/2324

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
श्रीहरिकोटा / नेल्लूर (जिला), आं.प्र./ SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

ई–निविदा सूचना सं./e- Tender Notice No: CMG/C/I 238726, P 238727 तिथि/ Date. 09.08.2023

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से, **"शार – सुल्लूरुपेट सड़क पर जल प्रवाह स्थलों पर उचित रिवर प्रशिक्षण कार्यों सहित चार आरसीसी बॉक्स पुलियों का निर्माण"** (₹ 220 लाख); **"सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र शार स्थित एसएलपी में विद्युत प्रणाली सेवा / भंडार भवन का निर्माण (सिविल कार्य)"** (₹ 69 लाख); हेतु मद दर ई–निविदाएं आमंत्रित हैं। निविदा दस्तावेज क्रमशः **29.08.2023** को **14:30** बजे तथा **25.08.2023** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं। विस्तृत सूचना हेतु इच्छुक निविदाकार हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** पर जा सकते हैं।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"Construction of 4 Nos of RCC Box Culverts with Proper river training works at water crossing locations on SHAR-Sullurupeta Road"** (₹ 220 Lakhs); **"Construction of Electrical Systems Service / Storage Building at SLP, SDSC SHAR (Civil Works)"** (₹ 69 Lakhs); Tender documents can be downloaded up to **29.08.2023**, **14:30** hrs and **25.08.2023**, **14:30** hrs, respectively. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION WORKSHOP)
PODANUR
E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the president of India, The Chief Workshop Manager, Signal and Telecommunication Workshop, Podanur, Coimbatore - 641023, invites E-Tender for the following works as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in the portal www.ireps.gov.in Tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted. The Bid Security deposit should be made through online payment gateway or through available modes as mentioned in Tender document.
Tender Notice No. SGW-S-203-70-23-GRS-H-622 dt: 11.08.2023.
Name of work: Manufacture and supply of GRS Apparatus case (Half) to Drg No.CWM 01103 (Alt 5 or latest) - 650 Nos
Approximate cost of the work: 51,68,800 including GST @ 12%
Earnest money to be deposited: 1,03,400/-
Completion period of work: 06 Months
Date and time of closing of tender: 11.00 Hrs of 02.09.2023
Website Particulars: http://www.ireps.gov.in
For further details, visit internet site **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact office of the Chief Workshop Manager, Signal and Telecommunication workshop, Podanur, Coimbatore-641023.
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION WORKSHOP)
PODANUR
E-TENDER

For and on behalf of the president of India, The Chief Workshop Manager, Signal and Telecommunication Workshop, Podanur, Coimbatore - 641023, invites E-Tender for the following works as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in the portal www.ireps.gov.in Tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted. The Bid Security deposit should be made through online payment gateway or through available modes as mentioned in Tender document.
Tender Notice No. SGW-S-203-71-23-GRS-F-623 dt: 12.08.2023.
Name of work: Manufacture and supply of GRS Apparatus case (Full) to Drg No.CWM 08097 (Alt 2 or latest) consisting of Sub assemblies/Components.-910 Nos
Approximate cost of the work: 1,09,72,143.00 including GST @ 12%
Earnest money to be deposited: 2,04,900/-
Completion period of work: 06 Months
Date and time of closing of tender: 12.00 Hrs of 02.09.2023
Website Particulars: http://www.ireps.gov.in
For further details, visit internet site **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact office of the Chief Workshop Manager, Signal and Telecommunication workshop, Podanur, Coimbatore-641023.
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

GRIDCO Empowering Odisha

ଗ୍ରିଡ୍‌କୋ ଲିମିଟେଡ୍
GRIDCO Limited
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office : Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751022, ODISHA
Phone : 0674-2540098/2540877, Fax : 2541904/2543031;
Web : www.gridco.co.in ; CIN : U40109OR1995SGC003960

STATEMENT OF STANDALONE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023

(₹ in Crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone			
		Quarter ended			Year ended
		30.06.2023	30.06.2022	31.03.2023	31.03.2023
		Un-audited	Un-audited	Audited	Audited
1.	Total income from Operations	3,371.04	2,834.33	2,949.77	11,923.13
2.	Net profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items#)	(54.79)	(160.54)	(448.63)	(793.21)
3.	Net profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items#)	(54.79)	(160.54)	(433.60)	(778.18)
4.	Net profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items#)	(54.79)	(160.54)	(433.60)	(778.18)
5.	Total comprehensive income for the period [comprising profit / (loss) for the period (after Tax) and other comprehensive income (after Tax)]	(54.79)	(160.54)	(433.60)	(778.18)
6.	Paid-up Equity Share Capital (Fully paid Equity Shares of Rs.1,000/- each issued at Par)	3,002.04	2,791.22	3,002.04	3,002.04
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(8,719.15)	(8,046.72)	(8,664.36)	(8,664.36)
8.	Securities Premium Account	--	--	--	--
9.	Net Worth	(5,717.11)	(5,255.50)	(5,662.32)	(5,662.32)
10.	Paid-up Debt Capital / Outstanding debt	6,607.51	7,103.62	6,293.00	6,293.00
11.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference share	--	--	--	--
12.	Debt-Equity Ratio	2.20	2.54	2.10	2.10
13.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.1,000/- each) (for continuing and discontinued Operations) -				
	1. Basic :	(18.25)	(57.52)	(155.28)	(278.68)
	2. Diluted :	(18.25)	(57.52)	(155.28)	(278.68)
14.	Capital Redemption Reserve	--	--	--	--
15.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	--	--	--	--
16.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.06	(0.02)	(0.14)	(0.11)
17.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	0.76	(0.30)	(2.43)	(0.58)

 # - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules.

Notes :

a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Annual Financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the LODR Regulations. The full format of the quarterly financial results is available on the website: https://www.bseindia.com and on the company website : https://www.gridco.co.in/.

b) For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the LODR Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(BSE) and can be accessed on the company website : https://www.gridco.co.in/.

c) There is no change in accounting policies and accordingly there is no impact on net profit/loss, total comprehensive income or any other relevant financial item(s).

By order of GRIDCO Board
For GRIDCO Ltd.
Sd/-
Managing Director

Place : Bhubaneswar
Date : 14.08.2023

CAD-1689: OIPR-04056/11/0007/2324

INBRIEF

WHO chief to open summit on traditional medicine

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of Ayush will host the first-ever global summit on traditional medicine at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from August 17 to 19 with the key focus areas being research, evidence and learning policy, data and regulations, innovation and digital health and biodiversity, equity and traditional knowledge. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, will inaugurate the event. Announcing the summit on Monday, the Union Minister of State for Ayush, Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai, said that the summit's outcome will be a declaration that will assist the WHO in shaping the future of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine.

CBI files four cases against Indians wanted in UAE

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered separate cases against four Indian nationals, who are wanted in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for their alleged involvement in cheating and fraud cases. The four accused are Sanjoy Kumar Datta, an accountant-general at United Eastern Medical Services; Mety Elsave Joseph, who allegedly cheated one Asad Ahmed Al Rashidi; Vinod Vasudevan, who worked as a travel consultant for the company; and Arun Kumar, who worked as the accountant in charge of staff salary for FIBRE. Vinod and Arun have been convicted by the court and will face deportation upon their completion of jail term.

Supreme Court flags fake social media post on CJI

The Supreme Court administration on Monday took note of a social media post falsely quoting Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud "invoking the public to protest against authorities". "It has come to the notice of the Supreme Court of India that a social media post (invoking the public to protest against authorities) using a file photograph and falsely quoting the Chief Justice India is being circulated. The post is fake, ill-intended and mischievous. No such post has been issued by the Chief Justice of India nor has he authorised any such post," a press note issued by the court said.

50 nurses invited as special guests on Independence Day

Fifty nurses, along with their family members, from across the country have been invited as special guests to witness Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day address from the ramparts of the Red Fort. They are a part of 1,800 special guests from various walks of life, including sarpanches, teachers, farmers, and fishermen, invited to the Independence Day celebrations at the iconic monument on August 15. "The initiative to invite the people from all walks of life, across India, and be a part of the celebrations has been taken by the Government in line with its vision of 'Jan Bhagidari'," a release issued by the Union government said.

'Villages near the border to see all-round development'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The smell of the earth in Galwan and Doklam is the real smell of "*Bharat ki mitti*", Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda said on Monday, addressing the heads of more than 200 villages located along the northern border of India.

"The fact that you have put down roots at the entrance of the country and stayed put there for all these years, preserving your culture, is what matters," Mr. Munda said.

The Minister and his wife hosted these village heads at his official residence in New Delhi.

The village chiefs, many of whom were visiting Delhi for the first time, have also been invited to attend the Independence Day celebrations on Tuesday.

"The government is committed to the all-round development of border villages under the Vibrant Villages Programme," the Minister added.

Atal Dulloo, Secretary, Border Management Division of the Home Ministry, said around ₹4,800 crore had been sanctioned for this project.

Hindenburg report: SEBI seeks 15 more days to submit report

The market regulator, in its eight-page report, says it has completed probe in 17 out of 24 'matters' and four are under process for approval

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Monday asked the Supreme Court for 15 days more to complete its inquiry into a report by the U.S.-based Hindenburg Research accusing the Adani Group of "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud schemes over the course of decades".

A report by the court's own six-member expert committee, headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice A.M. Sapre, had said that SEBI had "drawn a blank" and was in a "chicken-and-egg situation" in its investigation into the "ownership" of 13 overseas entities associated with the group.

SEBI had differed with the findings of the Justice Sapre committees, saying the "challenge" to its inquiry into the Hindenburg-Adani allegations case lay in the fact that the requirement to disclose the "last natural person" or the ultimate owner of FPIs remained non-existent.

> It would be just, expedient and in the interest of justice that the Supreme Court may be pleased to grant an extension by 15 days
> **SEBI APPLICATION**

On Monday, SEBI, however, said it had "substantially progressed" in its investigations. The market regulator, in an eight-page application, informed the court it had already probed 24 "matters".

"Out of the 24 investigations/examinations, 17 are final and complete and approved by the competent authority in accordance with SEBI's extant practice and procedures," the application said. In one case, the probe was completed and an interim report approved by the competent authority; however, more information was sought from foreign jurisdictions.

"Upon receipt of such information, the SEBI will evaluate it to determine further course of action," the application said.

Of the remaining six, reports on four are under process of approval by the competent authority. It is expected to be approved by August 29. Of the last two, investigation was at an "advanced stage" in one and interim report was under preparation in the other. More information has been sought from agencies and regulators in foreign jurisdictions. "It would be just, expedient and in the interest of justice that the Supreme Court may be pleased to grant to SEBI an extension of time by 15 days to conclude the process and file status report before this court," the application said.

'Doctors cannot be forced to prescribe poor quality drugs'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The IMA says only 0.1% of the drugs manufactured in India are tested for quality. FILE PHOTO

Following the National Medical Commission's (NMC) latest regulation asking doctors to prescribe generic drugs, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Monday demanded urgent intervention from the government stating that they should not be forced to do the work of chemists, and prescribe "poor quality drugs" to patients.

"The biggest impediment to generic drugs is the uncertainty about its quality. The quality control in the nation being very weak, there is practically no guarantee of the quality of drugs, and prescribing drugs without assured quality would be detrimental to patient health," the IMA said in its release.

It further said that less than 0.1% of the drugs manufactured in India are tested for quality.

The association said that if the government and the NMC want all the doctors in the country to prescribe only generic drugs, they should simply order all pharmaceutical companies to manufacture drugs without brand names.

"This measure is just shifting the job. Doctors' primary concern, training, and responsibility is patients' health; it is the chemist/person sitting in a chemist shop, who is selling drugs. This naturally wouldn't be in the best interest of the patient," said the association.

The Indian Medical Association also questioned that if doctors are not allowed to prescribe branded drugs, then why such drugs should be licensed at all, given that modern medicine drugs can be dispensed only on prescription of doctors of this system.

Congress govt. was 'short-sighted' during Partition, says Puri

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hardeep Singh Puri

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the Congress was "short-sighted" during Partition, which had devastating consequences for the people. He was attending an event on Partition Horror Remembrance Day on Monday.

The event was hosted at the Partition Museum in the Ambedkar University and organised by the Ministry of Culture. Mr. Puri spoke about the horrors of Partition and how his family was one of many that lived through the reality of displacements.

"Who did what, whose fault, it is all documented, there was one man Mahatma Gandhi, who saw what was happening and it happened in spite of his being aware," he said.

Mr. Puri said over 20 million people were affected by Partition. He said the serious mistakes in decision making that were made by the then government could have been avoided.

He added that it was important to recall Partition, so that these mistakes are not made again.

At another event, Mr. Puri said, "Anyone with even a nodding acquaintance of governance would've known that when you divide people artificially, the human devastation will be unprecedented."

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Congress leader Pawan Khera said, "It looks like Mr. Puri had to surrender his intellect and integrity while joining the BJP."

More rain expected in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand today: IMD

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Heavy rain that has wreaked havoc in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand is likely to continue on Tuesday before it starts to temper down by the end of the day, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

"Isolated extremely heavy falls also likely over Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh during next 24 hours and substantial decrease thereafter from tomorrow," the IMD noted.

Meteorologists said that the extremely heavy rain was due to an "interaction" between a passing 'western disturbance (WD)' and active monsoon conditions in the Himalayas. "This is similar to the conditions that caused heavy rain in July. Unusually for the monsoon months, North India has seen multiple WD this year. This is also the time when the monsoon trough is active over North India, east and north-eastern India," D. Sivananda Pai, senior meteorologist at the IMD, told *The Hindu*.

Heritage site affected: A portion of the Shimla-Kalka railway line which was washed away on Monday. PTI

Western disturbances are storms that originate in the Mediterranean region because of a mixing of warm air from the tropics and cold air from the northern polar regions.

They typically impact India during the winter months but a warming Arctic region has in recent months shifted these patterns and brought them closer to the southwest monsoon, he added.

The weather office issued a yellow warning for Himachal Pradesh for Tuesday.

(*with inputs from PTI*)

Bihar govt. sounds alert after water discharge

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

After over 4 lakh cusecs of water were discharged from the Kosi barrage following heavy rain in the catchment areas of Nepal, the Bihar government on Monday sounded an alert for flood in Bihar.

"The last time we saw a higher discharge of water from the barrage was in 1989, when 4.72 cusecs of water was released. As it is always in Kosi areas of northeast Bihar, this has been due to torrential rain in the catchment areas of Nepal," State Water Resources Minister Sanjay Kumar Jha told pressperson.

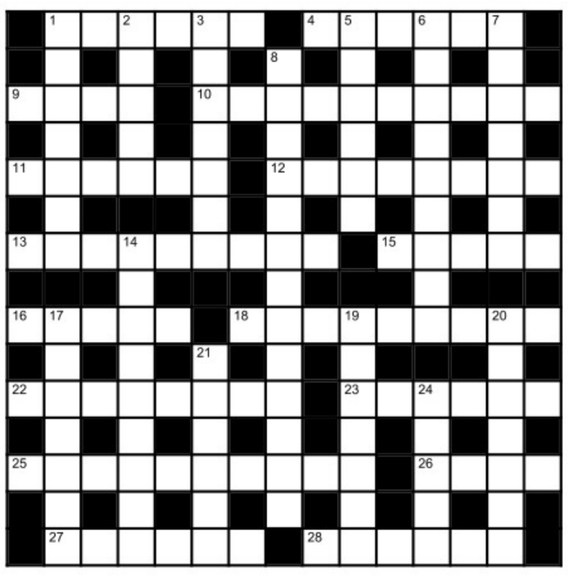
"However, the department officials and engineers are on alert and embankments are being patrolled round the clock. People can also reach out to us through our call centre by dialling the toll-free number," he said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13944

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Ranking in priority primarily to rescue inmates on time (6)
4 Greek character's impertinence with one of the apostles (6)
9 Collection of poems by journalist submitted to lawyer (4)
10 Stingy neurosurgeon leaves Romania to resettle (10)
11 Famous Nicaraguan at gate, gatecrashes (6)
12 Dreamt of soldier being in the embrace of wanton maiden (8)
13 Evaluation of computer program written by AI inhouse at Alabama (9)
15 Clean ascent overcoming banes essentially (5)
16 Six left visibly agitated seer (5)
18 Plant on earth, from mostly wild seeds cultivated (9)
22 Shooting one over par? Could be good-bye in golf, missing over first drive (8)
23 Discharged in toilet corner by the beginning of the day (6)
25 Pasta in Orient? It'll go bad (10)
26 Thailand lawyers in a ski-lift (1-3)
27 Shorter, faster service described (6)
28 Rebel trails police sergeant at yard with intelligence (6)

Down

1 Cuts back to back in crosscurrent (4,3)
2 A judge is angry (5)
3 Without directions ignoramus cooked a fish (7)
5 Chang arrested, held in a shed for airplanes (6)
6 At LA, six policemen enter borders of Riverside to nab a killer, perhaps (9)
7 Composed, quite nurse overcomes resistance of gardeners, say (7)
8 Repeatedly one gets profits smuggling egg in India (5,3,5)
14 Poet Rand & Henry are with yes men inside the vacant republic (9)
17 Working in a flight by compromise (4,3)
19 Relaxes outside a cafe finally having candies (7)
20 Leak by court attendant (7)
21 Singer Nelson's choice is eclectic primarily (6)
24 Maybe topic is related to eye (5)

SUDOKU

		8	9		4	5		
		5		1	7	6	4	
1					5			
	1	4					3	
		9		2		7		
	5					9	6	
			7					6
	7	6	1	4		8		
		1	6		8	4		

No.SS5889 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

M	A	I	N	S	T	A	Y	
A		N		A		T		
I	N	H	A	B	I	T	S	
T		E		L		E		O
A	G	R	E	E		M	A	N
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	S	T	R	E	E	T		
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S	I	D	E	C	A	R		
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P	I	S	C	O	S	O	U	R
R		H		S		M		T
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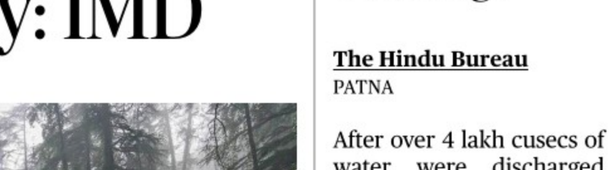
O				L		O		A
P	I	S	C	O	S	O	U	R
R		H		S		M		T
E	X	O	D	U	S		D	I
N		O		R			N	
E	N	T	R	E	E		D	I

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	6	4	2	9	3	7	1	8
3	8	2	7	5	1	6	4	9
9	1	7	6	8	4	3	2	5
6	7	5	9	3	2	1	8	4
8	4	1	5	7	6	2	9	3
2	9	3	1	4	8	5	6	7
1	5	8	4	2	7	9	3	6
7	3	6	8	1	9	4	5	2
4	2	9	3	6	5	8	7	1



FAITH

Love of a mother

There are people who claim that they have great bhakti towards Lord Narayana. But their faith begins to waver when they are confronted by serious problems. If they had unwavering bhakti towards Him, they should not have any doubts about the Lord's daya, said Velukkudi Krishnan, in a discourse.

But then the question arises, if indeed He is merciful, why do His devotees suffer? Manavala Mamunigal had a beautiful explanation. He pointed to the method a mother sometimes adopts to correct her child when it does something wrong. Some children develop a tendency to eat mud. Scolding the child might make it adamant and lead to a repeat of what it has been doing. So, the mother lets the child go ahead. After sticking its fingers in mud, and tasting it, the child begins to feel sick. She then gives it a medicine to relieve its stomach cramps. The child has now learnt the hard way that eating mud will have uncomfortable consequences for it. So it never does it again.

In the same way, the Lord lets us suffer sometimes, for then we realise that we have strayed from the correct path. Once we realise our mistakes, and surrender to Him, He gladly gives us moksha. The mother who lets her child lick a finger dipped in mud and allows it to be sick for a while, suffers more than the child.

LAHORE

Hindu man arrested for allegedly committing blasphemy in Pakistan

AFP

A Hindu man in Pakistan's Punjab province was held for allegedly committing blasphemy by making 'disrespectful' comments about Muslim holy places and was shifted to jail to protect him from an enraged mob. The police took the suspect — identified as Akbar Ram, some 400 km from provincial capital Lahore - into custody. PTI

LONDON

U.K. scrambles jets to intercept Russian bombers near Scotland

AP

UK jets were scrambled Monday morning to respond to two Russian bombers flying north of the Shetland Islands in Scotland. U.K. officials said the jets monitored two Russian Tu-142 long-range maritime patrol bombers as they transited near the Shetland Islands in the North Sea "within NATO's air policing area". AFP

TEHRAN

Iran arrests eight 'foreigners' after fatal shooting at Shia shrine

REUTERS

Iranian security forces have arrested eight foreign suspects after detaining a gunman in the killing of one person at a Shia Muslim shrine. The attack on the Shah Cheragh mausoleum in Shiraz, capital of Fars province, came less than a year after a mass shooting at the same site later claimed by the Islamic State (IS) group. AFP

KAHULUI

Hawaii fire toll nears 100 as anger grows against government inaction

AP

The death toll in Hawaii from the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century ticked towards 100 on Sunday, fueling criticism that government inaction contributed to the heavy loss of life. At least 96 people were confirmed to have died as of Sunday night, but officials warned the figure was likely to rise further. AFP

Anwaar ul Haq Kakar sworn in as Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister

The ethnic Pashtun leader, considered close to the powerful military, becomes the eighth interim Prime Minister of the country; he will head a neutral political set-up to run the cash-strapped country and conduct the next general elections

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Anwaar ul Haq Kakar, an ethnic Pashtun leader who is considered close to the powerful military, was on Monday sworn in as Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister to head a neutral political set-up to run the cash-strapped country and conduct the next general elections.

President Arif Alvi administered the oath to 52-year-old Mr. Kakar at a simple ceremony held at the President House, attended by outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and several top leaders. He became the eighth interim Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Brief spell: Pakistan President Arif Alvi, right, administrates oath to Anwaar ul Haq Kakar as caretaker Prime Minister, in Islamabad. AP

Mr. Kakar, an ethnic Pashtun from the Balochistan province, was unanimously chosen as interim premier to oversee the elections as provided in the Constitution. He was serving as a senator but resigned from the post after his appointment as Prime Minister.

The acting premier, a first-time Senator, also resigned from the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), a party set up in 2018 and deemed closer to the powerful establishment of the country.

Cabinet formation

After taking the oath, Mr. Kakar drove to the PM House, the palatial official residence of Prime Minister nestled in the foothills of the Margalla mountains, where he was introduced to the new staff.

The immediate task of Mr. Kakar is to form a Cabinet to assist him run the country. According to insiders, Jalil Abbas Jilani, a former career diplomat, is expected to be appointed as Foreign Minister. He was also among the runners for the post of interim premier.

Mr. Kakar now faces the daunting task of holding free and fair elections and keeping the fragile economy on an even keel.

Meanwhile, former premier Mr. Sharif left the PM House and was presented a farewell guard of honour by troops from the three services of the country.

Taiwan's Lai vows to 'resist annexation' on trip to U.S.

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

Taiwanese Vice-President William Lai vowed on Sunday "to resist annexation" in a speech given during a weekend trip to the United States that China has opposed.

Mr. Lai is the frontrunner in Taiwan's presidential elections next year, and is making transit stops in the United States en route to and from Paraguay, where he will attend the inauguration of president-elect Santiago Pena.

Sensitive visit: William Lai, centre, at the Silvio Pettirossi International Airport at Luque in Paraguay on Monday. AFP

China's wrath

His trip has already roused anger from Beijing, which claims democratic Taiwan as part of China, and which particularly dislikes Mr. Lai, accusing him of espousing separatist views.

At a New York luncheon on Sunday, Mr. Lai reiterated he would continue to uphold the core tenets of the administration of President Tsai Ing-wen – also hated by Beijing for refusing to accept that Taiwan is a part of China.

"I will continue... our commitment to resist annexation or encroachment upon our sovereignty," he said.

China had said earlier on Sunday that it was closely monitoring "troublemaker" Mr. Lai's visits.

Chinese Defence Minister to visit Russia and Belarus

Associated Press
BEIJING

Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu is visiting Russia and Belarus in a show of support for those nations which the West has sought to isolate over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Mr. Li departed on Monday on the six-day trip, during which he will deliver an address at the Moscow Conference on International Security and meet with defence leaders from Russia and other nations, the Defence Ministry said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is due to speak at the conference on the topic of the "Majority World countries' search for ways to development outside Western mechanisms, including strengthening multilateral associations of a new type," Russia's official TASS news agency reported.

Li Shangfu

It said representatives from about 100 countries and eight international organisations had been invited to attend.

He would "discuss various aspects of security in the conditions of the establishment of a multipolar world order, ways to restore constructive international cooperation in the context of aggressive claims by Euro-Atlantic elites for world domination," it said.

Niger coup leaders to prosecute ousted President for 'treason'

Associated Press
NIAMEY

Junta says it has proof to prosecute Mohamed Bazoum for undermining the internal and external security of Niger

Niger's mutinous soldiers said they will prosecute deposed President Mohamed Bazoum for "high treason" and undermining state security, in an announcement hours after the junta said they were open to dialogue with West African nations to resolve the mounting regional crisis.

If found guilty, Mr. Bazoum could face the death penalty, according to Niger's penal code.

Spokesman Col. Maj. Amadou Abdramane said on state television on Sunday night that the military regime had "gathered the necessary evidence to prosecute before competent national and international authorities the ousted president and his local and foreign accomplices for high treason and for undermining the internal and external security of Niger."

The announcement said high-ranking West African politicians and "their international mentors" have made false allegations and attempted to derail a peaceful solution to the crisis in order to justify a military intervention. It said Mr. Bazoum was being charged following his exchanges with these people. The statement did not identify specific Western countries and did not specify a date for the trial.

Mr. Bazoum, was ousted by members of his presidential guard on July 26.

Bangladesh seeks extradition treaty with U.K., trying to bring back Mujibur Rahman's killers

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Bangladesh has sought an extradition treaty with the British government, weeks after a court in the country sentenced fugitive BNP leader Tarique Rahman in a money laundering case, the neighbouring country's Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Anisul Huq said.

Mr. Huq said Bangladesh is also trying to bring back two of the fugitive Army officers who were involved in shooting dead the country's founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and members of his family on August 15, 1975.

Leader's cause: BNP activists stage a protest in Dhaka on August 4 in support of the party's acting chairman Tarique Rahman. AFP

A court in Bangladesh had earlier this month sentenced Mr. Rahman to nine years in prison and his wife to three years, in absentia, in a money laundering case.

Rahman, the son of slain former Bangladesh president General Ziaur Rahman and ex-Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, was allowed to leave for London after signing a conduct bond on being arrested for graft by an Army-backed caretaker government in 2008.

Negotiations are on

Huq in his interview with PTI said that his country was also negotiating the return of two "self-confessed killers" of Sheikh Mujib – Rashed Chowdhury from the U.S. and SHBM Noor Chowdhury from Canada.

Canada has laws which do not permit a person facing a death sentence at home to be extradited and this has proven to be a hurdle.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
TENDER NOTICE
Adv. No. 35/D3/CE/TTD/2023-24 & NIT No.114/ SE-I/TTD/2023-24 Dt:14.08.2023
Name of the work : (1) Repairs and Improvements to the drains, foot paths and central divider etc., for the road from Tiruchanoor Junction to MR Palli (Annamaiah Marg) and Road from 2nd choultry to Annamaiah Road, Tirupati. **Amount: Rs.585 Lakhs,** Time for Completion 12 Months
Note : For full details log on to the website : https://www.tirumala.org.
ROC No. PR4/13957/Adv. No.157/ PRO/2023, Dated: 14.08.2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : T No. 73/2023-24//SE/Q, KIIFB - Augmentation of WSS to Kollam - Phase II Package V-construction of transformer building and allied works - Supply, erection Raw water & clear water pumpsets, construction of Electrical substation, Automation (SCADA), CCTV & Solar Panel installation at Raw water & clear water pumping station, **EMD :** Rs. 500000, **Tender Fee :** Rs. 16540 + 2978, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 28-09-2023, 02:00:pm, **Phone :** 04742745293.
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
KWA-JB-GL-6-1032-2023-24 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kollam

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
N.I.T. No. 15 /2023-24
Tenders are invited from reputed contractors registered in A or AA class for item no 1 & appropriate class for item no 2 with RRVPNL and AA class in Central/State Govt. Department and their undertakings and registered in GST department for the bid S. No. 1 of NIT 15 under Superintending Engineer (Civil) and bid S. No 2 of NIT No. 15 under Executive Engineer (Civil) Udaipur. All details of above NIB are available on website **www.rvpn.co.in & https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** or **https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**
UBN- VPN2324WSOB1156, VPN2324WSOB1157
RRVPN/TR-5983/2023
Raj.Samwad/C/23/7509 Superintending Engineer (Civil), Udaipur

Bharat Coking Coal Limited
'A Mini Ratna Comnany'
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
NOTICE
All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of **BCCL www.bcclweb.in,** Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in.** *This is applicable to all Open (Domestic / Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
HO: Sri Venkateswara Arcade, 80/A & 81/A, 6th Lane, Annapurna Nagar, Gorantla, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India.
E-mail: vcmd_apfdc@yahoo.co.in, vcmd.apfdcl@gmail.com
RED SANDERS WOOD SALE(PHASE-XVII) 2023-NOTICE
Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation Limited hereby notifies the sale of **615.833 Metric Tonnes** of Red Sanders Wood (RSW) through international competitive bidding by way of e-tender-cum-e-auction on **01st September 2023** in the First cycle. The unsold RSW lots, if any, would be put for sale on **08th September 2023** in the Second cycle. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has all the necessary statutory approvals for the sale and export of RSW. The details of the sale conditions and related information are available in the following: **http://www.apfdcl.com, http://www.forests.ap.gov.in, http://www.mstcindia.co.in, http://mstcecommerce.com**
Sd/
(B.K. SINGH, IFS.,)
Date: 14.08.2023 Vice Chairman and Managing Director(FAC)

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking), Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691 583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217, E-mail: contact@kmml.com
TENDER NOTICE
For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml. com**

No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2023_KMML_592726_1	For the supply of Inconnel Pipe
2	2023_KMML_592020_1	For the supply of Zirconium Ortho Sulphate Solution-15 MT
3	2023_KMML_591132_1	For the supply of Base Plate for Rotary Digester-1 Nos
4	2023_KMML_591673_1	For the supply of Brick Acid Resistant
5	2023_KMML_591593_1	For the supply of Brick for Spray Roaster Burner Combuster
6	2023_KMML_593385_1	For the supply of Self Aligning Bearing without Dust Cap and Lid-1 Nos

Chavara, 14.08.2023 **Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd**

ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF LAKSHADWEEP
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES)
KAVARATTI-682555
Phone: 04896 263650, Email: gnckavaratti@gmail.com
F.No. 5/145/2021-DHS, Dated: 11.08.2023
ADMISSION NOTICE
Government Nursing College, UTL Kavaratti invites application from eligible female and male candidate (10th & +2 pass with Science) for the year 2023-24 admission in B.Sc Nursing (04 years Course) in Government College, UTL Kavaratti. The application forms available on the official website: **www.lakshadweep.gov.in** from 14.08.2023, 10 am to 28.08.2023, 05.00 pm.
Sd/- (Dr.Shrikant R Tapdiya, Danics)
Director of Health Services

tifr
टीआईएफआर–अनुप्रयुक्त गणित केन्द्र, बैंगलुरू–560065, भारत
TIFR-CENTRE FOR APPLICABLE MATHEMATICS, Bengaluru-560065, India
टाटा मूलभूत अनुसंधान संस्थान
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
(भारत सरकार के परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग की स्वायत्त संस्थान एवं समविश्वविद्यालय
(An Autonomous Institution under the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India and Deemed-to-be-University)
CORRIGENDUM
Tender Notice No: 04/2023-24 dt. 18/07/2023
There are some changes in the terms & conditions of the above tender document for the supply / installation/ commissioning of the High-Performance Computing Cluster at the Centre. The last date for submission of bid documents is also extended to **04th September 2023 at 16:00 hours.**
For further details please visit website **http://math.tifrbng.res.in** Sd/-
Administrative Officer-E

ERCP Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project Corporation Limited
SinchaiBhawan, JLN Marg, Jaipur 302017 Tel: 0141-2709667 Email: ceercpc@gmail.com
CIN U74140RJ2022SGC082962 PAN AAHCE 1798H TAN PRE02895E
Corrigendum
Bid submission date is extended up to 18:00 Hrs IST 23.08.2023 (date) for NIBs **ERCPCL/09/2023-24, ERCPCL/10/2023-24, ERCPCL/11/2023-24, for the work for "Construction of Ramgarh Barrage, Mahalpur Barrage, Navnera-Galwa-Bisalpur-Isarda Link project" in different packages (NGBI Link Package 1,NGBI Link Package 2 & NGBI Link Package 3) invited on EPC single responsibility and Hybrid Annuity Model.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** & **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** & **www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wr** of the state.
UBN No.: ERP2324WLOB00014, ERP2324WLOB00016, ERP2324WLOB00015
Raj.Samwad/C/23/7490 Managing Director ERCPCL Jaipur

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813
website: www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 9646123323)
Tender Inquiry No. PPR-18/2023 **Dated: 14.08.2023**
Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-Tender under three part bid system for supply of electrical energy from interstate/intrastate sources viz. Generators, Traders having Valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 1st Sept 2023 to 31st Oct 2023. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.mstcecommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.Powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com). For detaled NIT & tender specifications please refer to **www.mstcecommerce.com** from 11.08.2023 onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at www.mstcecommerce.com
C-550/23 76155/12/2053/2023/26762

एसजेवीएन ग्रीन एनर्जी लिमिटेड
SJVN Green Energy Limited
(A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of SJVN Limited)
CIN: U40100HP2022GOI009237
AMENDMENT/ CORRIGENDUM
This is to notify to all prospective bidders that SJVN Green Energy Limited has made amendments in the bid document no. **SGEL/CHQ/Contracts/BOS- Gujarat SPP/2023** for "**Balance of System Package including three (03) years comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of 02 nos. grid connected solar PV power projects of total capacity of 360 MW(AC) at different locations in the state of Gujarat**"
For details, visit websites: **https://www.bharat-electronictender.com**, **www.eprocure.gov.in** and **www.sjvn.nic.in**.
Last date for bid submission is **24.08.2023 (13:00 Hrs)**.
Further Amendment(s), if any, shall be issued on websites only.
DGM (Contracts)
SJVN Green Energy Limited
Corporate Headquarters, Shakti Sadan Shanan, Shimla (H.P)
Email- contracts.sgel@sjvn.nic.in

INBRIEF

Rupee slides 26 paise to all-time low of 83.08 vs dollar

The rupee depreciated 26 paise to settle at an all-time low of 83.08 against the U.S. dollar on Monday, weighed down by a strong greenback overseas and firm crude oil prices in the international markets. Foreign fund outflows also weighed on the local unit, analysts said. At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 83.04 against the dollar, and finally ended the day at 83.08, registering a fall of 26 paise from its previous close. PTI

Government appoints R. Doraiswamy as LIC MD

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Monday said the government had appointed R. Doraiswamy as the managing director. He is currently executive director at the central office. Mr. Doraiswamy has been appointed as managing director in place of Mini Ipe with effect from the date of assumption of charge of office on or after September 1, 2023, and up to the date of his superannuation August 31, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier, LIC said. PTI

Divi's Labs Q1 net slumps 49% to ₹356 cr. on lower revenue

Drugmaker Divi's Laboratories reported consolidated net profit declined more than 49% to ₹356 crore for the June quarter compared with ₹702 crore in the year-earlier period. Revenue from operations was a little over 21% lower at ₹1,778 crore (₹2,255 crore), while total income fell to ₹1,859 crore (₹2,343 crore). On a sequential basis, the consolidated net profit for June quarter was higher. For the quarter ended March, the company had reported ₹321 crore profit.

July exports shrink 16% on slowdown in U.S. and EU

At $20.67 billion, goods trade deficit is 18.7% lower; govt. says export dip 'disproportionately' driven by fall in value of petroleum exports, even as volume of outbound shipments remained static

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's goods exports shrank 15.9% in July to $32.25 billion while imports fell 17% to $52.9 billion, as per Commerce Ministry estimates released on Monday. Slowing demand in major markets such as the U.S. and the EU continued to take a toll on shipments.

This is the eighth time in ten months that merchandise exports have dropped, with 19 of 30 top export items clocking a decline, led by petroleum (-43.7%), gem and jewellery (-29.7%), handicrafts (-21.2%) and readymade textile garments (-17.4%).

Excluding petroleum and gems and jewellery, however, the dip in the value of exports was just 5.7%. Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said the decline in exports was 'disproportionately' driven by a fall in the value of petroleum exports, even as volumes remained static. The Centre hopes that overall exports may rise 5%-5.5% in FY24 from last year's $775-billion mark, with services exports expected to grow 7%, he said.

At $20.67 billion, the goods trade deficit in July was 18.7% lower than last year. "While the decline in imports is a good sign, that has also led to degrowth in key export sectors," said A. Sakthivel, president of the exporters' body FIEO.

Dip, dip, dip

This is the eighth time in 10 months that goods exports have dropped, with 19 of 30 top export items clocking a decline

- Drop was led by petroleum (-43.7%), gem & jewellery (-29.7%), handicrafts (-21.2%)
- Excluding petroleum and gem & jewellery, dip in value of exports in July was 5.7%
- Government is eyeing 5-5.5% export growth in 2023-24, with services exports expected to expand 7%

SEBI proposes delisting of companies via fixed-price mechanism

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Capital markets regulator SEBI on Monday proposed allowing companies to delist through a fixed-price mechanism instead of the existing reverse book-building process.

Currently, the delisting process of a company from stock exchanges involves a reverse book-building process, whereby shareholders of the company place offers to sell their securities back to the promoters or large shareholders. In its consultation paper, the regulator has proposed alternatives to the reverse book-building process – fixed price delisting – delisting of investment holding companies, counter-offer framework, determination of floor price, and reference date for determination of the floor price.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has sought comments from the public till September 4 on the proposals. Suggesting an alternative to the reverse book-building mechanism, SEBI has recommended providing the acquirer with the option to offer an exit to all public shareholders at a fixed price under certain scenarios. It has been proposed that such a delisting mechanism would be permitted only for those companies whose shares are frequently traded.

Further, such a delisting offer would be subject to certain conditions.

RBI to unveil pilot to enable easier credit

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Currently, data needed for credit appraisal are available with different entities

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the development of a Public Tech Platform for 'frictionless credit' by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly-owned subsidiary of RBI.

Currently, data needed for credit appraisal are available with different entities such as central and State governments, banks, credit information companies, and the like. This has created hindrance in the frictionless delivery of loans. The Public Tech Platform would enable delivery of frictionless credit by facilitating seamless flow of required digital information to lenders.

The platform would be rolled out as a pilot project on August 17, 2023 in a calibrated fashion and it would bring about efficiency in the lending process, the RBI said.

SpiceJet turned net profit of ₹197 cr. in Q1

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Budget airline SpiceJet on Monday reported a net profit of ₹197 crore for the quarter ended June 2023 compared with a loss of ₹783 crore during the same period a year earlier.

The airline also declared its delayed January-March quarter result reporting a loss of ₹6.2 crore compared with a loss of ₹485 crore during the same quarter in financial year 2022. Its total loss for FY23 stood at ₹1,512 crorecompared with a loss of ₹1,744 crore in FY22.

The airline said in a statement that the hiving off of its logistics platform, SpiceXpress, effective April 1, 2023, contributed to the improvement in the airline's net worth from negative ₹4,288 crore to negative ₹3,232 crore.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	65,402	0.12
US Dollar	83.08	-0.30
Gold	59,750	0.11
Brent oil	86.22	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2456.00	-83.50
Adani Ports	787.15	-13.90
Apollo Hosp	4820.85	-85.30
Asian Paints	3202.60	17.25
Axis Bank	939.95	2.75
Bajaj Auto	4616.70	17.65
Bajaj Finserv	1482.05	-21.95
Bajaj Finance	7018.05	-42.55
Bharti Airtel	867.05	-3.50
BPCL	356.55	-1.00
Britannia Ind	4499.60	-10.70
Cipla	1235.60	-14.60
Coal India	233.90	-1.00
Divis Lab	3730.55	51.40
Dr Reddys Lab	5823.35	0.35
Dummy - Jio Financial Services Ltd.	261.85	0.00
Eicher Motors	3338.70	-50.50
Grasim Ind	1811.75	-15.80
HCL Tech	1171.00	-0.45
HDFC Bank	1610.90	-7.90
HDFC Life	632.75	-0.85
Hero MotoCorp	3010.65	12.45
Hindalco	450.80	-11.65
Hind Unilever	2533.10	31.30
ICICI Bank	959.55	6.70
IndusInd Bank	1388.90	-8.35
Infosys	1393.55	21.70
ITC	449.20	0.45
JSW Steel	799.45	-21.20
Kotak Bank	1794.10	2.65
L&T	2659.90	21.40
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5193.30	85.95
M&M	1546.85	0.40
Maruti Suzuki	9321.65	-35.20
NestleIndia	21899.50	57.10
NTPC	213.00	0.00
ONGC	178.00	0.80
PowerGrid Corp	244.50	0.20
Reliance Ind	2577.25	30.10
SBI Life	1297.10	-14.40
State Bank	560.80	-13.35
Sun Pharma	1134.25	1.90
TataConsumerProduct	844.70	7.80
Tata Motors	607.35	-4.45
Tata Steel	118.15	-2.15
TCS	3449.85	1.05
Tech Mahindra	1219.75	-0.70
Titan	3010.65	-6.60
UltraTech Cement	8054.30	-78.65
UPL	590.30	-9.40
Wipro	415.15	2.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 14

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.75	83.07
Euro	90.56	90.91
British Pound	105.07	105.48
Japanese Yen (100)	57.07	57.29
Chinese Yuan	11.40	11.45
Swiss Franc	94.36	94.73
Singapore Dollar	61.10	61.35
Canadian Dollar	61.55	61.78
Malaysian Ringitt	17.92	18.00
Australian Dollar	53.76	53.97

Source:Indian Bank

ALL acquires 100% of OHM Global, set to infuse ₹300 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Ashok Leyland's board has approved the acquisition of 100% of Ohm Global Mobility Pvt. Ltd., (OHM) from OHM International Mobility Ltd. for a nominal consideration of ₹1 lakh.

As the company is yet to become operational, the consideration is nominal. With this move, OHM becomes a 100% arm of Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL).

Besides, ALL would also invest more than ₹300 crore as equity in OHM to operationalise the company. In addition, existing E-MaaS (electric-mobility-as-a-service) contracts will be transferred to OHM, subject to approvals, ALL said.

'Hype surrounding organic farming abating globally'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The fervour for organic cultivation of vegetables, fruits and other food crops seemed to have declined around the globe as going organic is simply not sustainable in any geography, including in India, said Gurmukh Roopra, CEO, Namdhari's Group that grows and retails fresh fruits and vegetables.

In France, a country which has been a strong advocate of organic products, the focus on organic cultivation has significantly reduced, Mr. Roopra told *The Hindu*. In Western and other parts of Europe, organic farming has been declining rapidly.

"I don't think organic farming is sustainable. Organic produce will always be limited because of the premium pricing and low-yield cultivation."

Gurmukh Roopra

Residue test

"Also, we have no way of testing a tomato, chilly or vegetable that is claimed to be organic. The only test available is a residue test to know whether the produce has a chemical residue and how safe it is to eat."

However, it was possible for farmers to focus on low mutation rates (MRs) or residue-free agriculture.

Under residue-free farming, farmers use organically-derived biocides and biofertilizers to protect crops and augment their growth and also to reduce MRs, through which the DNA sequence changes in a living organism.

Lower yields

According to Mr. Roopra, India had some 400 million farmers, of whom only 4-5 million were certified as organic farmers. Yields were about 20-25% lower.

"Imagine if all 400 million became organic farmers. Where will the productivity come from? Then, I think, we should be ready for another famine."

Vodafone Idea Q1 net loss widens to ₹7,840 cr.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Debt-ridden telco Vodafone Idea said consolidated net loss widened to ₹7,840 crore in the June quarter.

The telco had posted a net loss of ₹7,295.7 crore in the year-earlier period.

Consolidated revenue from operations rose marginally by 2.3% to ₹10,655.5 crore while the average revenue per user (ARPU) increased to ₹139 from ₹128.

"The eighth consecutive quarter of growth in average daily revenue, ARPU and 4G subscribers clearly reflects our ability to effectively operate and compete in the market," VIL CEO Akshaya Moondra said.

The total gross debt (excluding lease liabilities and including interest accrued but not due) as of June 30, stood at ₹2,11,760 crore, comprising deferred spectrum payment obligations of ₹1,33,740 crore and AGR liability of ₹66,860 crore.

With cash and cash equivalents of ₹250 crore, the net debt stood at ₹2,11,510 crore. Debt from banks and financial institutions reduced by ₹5,700 crore from ₹15,200 crore.

ITC Q1 profit rises 16%, hotels swap ratio at 1:10

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

ITC Ltd. reported a 16% rise in consolidated net profit to ₹5,180.12 crore for the June-ended quarter.

Consolidated revenue from operations slid 6% year-on-year (y-o-y) to ₹18,639.48 crore, impacted by the agribusiness division, ITC Ltd. said in a filing. Total expenses dipped 12.6% to ₹12,421.77 crore.

Total income slipped 3.92% to ₹19,361.78 crore.

Gross revenue from sale of products and services fell 6% to ₹18,508.23 crore.

"Amid a challenging operating environment and high-base effect in some of its operating segments, the company sustained strong growth momentum during the quarter, driven by a focus on customer centricity, accelerated digital adoption, execution excellence and agility," ITC said.

Agribusiness revenue slid almost 24% to ₹5,726.98 crore on account of curbs on wheat and rice exports. ITC also said shareholders will get one equity share of ITC Hotels for every 10 shares held in the demerged firm (ITC Ltd).

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15 AUG

Heartiest Congratulations of 77th

INDEPENDENCE DAY

to all countrymen

"I extend my deepest congratulations to the countrymen from the inner recesses of my heart on the joyous occasion of the Independence Day. As we celebrate 77th Independence Day, it is also imperative on us all to reflect upon what have we achieved and how we plan to sustain the developmental journey of our Nation. In this regard, I can proudly say that Punjab has been the frontrunner, focusing on futuristic sectors of Health & Education. The Punjab Government has shown the way worth emulating. Let us rededicate ourselves wholeheartedly to live up to be the true inheritors of the legacy bestowed by the countless freedom fighters and founding fathers of our country."

Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

2220/13/152/2023/26768

IT'S OVER

England pacer Finn decides to hang up his boots

England fast bowler Steve Finn retired on Monday after the three-time Ashes winner accepted "defeat" in his battle against a host of injury problems. "I retire with some amazing memories with England, Middlesex and Sussex, shared with fantastic people. Those will live with me forever," he said.

THIRD TIME LUCKY

Sinner downs de Minaur to bag his first Masters crown

Italy's Jannik Sinner defeated Alex de Minaur of Australia 6-4, 6-1 in a battle that lasted one hour and 29 minutes to clinch his first ATP Masters 1000 title in Toronto on Sunday. It marked the biggest triumph of Sinner's career and came after defeats in the finals of the Miami Open Masters events in 2021 and 2023.

QUICK JOB

Pegula overpowers Samsonova, clinches Montreal Open crown

Jessica Pegula overpowered Liudmila Samsonova to clinch the second WTA 1000 title of her career on Sunday with a victory in the Montreal Open. The 29-year-old American, ranked No. 3 in the world, dominated from start to finish to claim a whirlwind 6-1, 6-0 triumph in just 49 minutes.

BIG MOVE

Chelsea completes Caicedo signing for British record £115 million

Chelsea completed the signing of Ecuadorian midfielder Moises Caicedo for a reported Premier League record fee of up to £115 million ($146 million) on Monday. The 21-year-old has agreed for an eight-year contract at Stamford Bridge, with a club option for a further year, after Chelsea beat Liverpool for his signature.

India's experimentation leaves more questions than answers

Suryakumar's low returns in ODIs keeps the No. 4 slot open for the World Cup; Tilak's impressive run in T20Is a shot in the arm for the Men in Blue; Kuldeep reinforces his reputation of being the go-to bowler for wickets in the middle overs

INDIA IN WEST INDIES

Press Trust of India
LAUDERHILL

Calypso kings: West Indies emerged on top in the T20I series though Hardik's men made a fight of it by taking it to the decider. AFP

India went on an experimentation spree in the limited- overs series against the West Indies but not much came out of it except Tilak Varma who emerged as a contender for a World Cup middle-order slot on the back of his exploits in the T20I series.

Ahead of the Asia Cup and the World Cup, India was looking for options in the middle-order but the No. 4 slot continued to be a worry.

Knowing that it was its final chance of trying out players ahead of the two mega events, skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli did not figure in the series and watched the action from the sidelines.

With the series going down to the wire, the move was criticised but it allowed the likes of Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson and Suryakumar Yadav to make a strong case for themselves.

Strong contender

Before the start of the series, Samson and Kishan were seen as contenders for the wicketkeeper's spot but by the end of it, the latter emerged a strong contender for the reserve opener's slot as Rohit and Shubman Gill are set to open in the Asia Cup.

Samson got two innings to deliver under pressure and made an impactful 51 off 41 balls in the series-deciding third ODI.

In the absence of K.L. Rahul and Shreyas Iyer, Suryakumar had to ace the middle-order audition but the master of T20 batting fell short of expectations.

Considering what he can do for the team in the middle-overs, it will be a tough call for the management to ignore him for the final 15 for the World Cup.

Even if Rahul and Shreyas regain full fitness in time for the Asia Cup, the two will have to thrive in the middle after a long injury lay-off.

Tilak, who was picked only for the T20Is, showed remarkable poise and maturity in his debut series for India.

He got better as the series progressed and played a huge role in India's fightback in the T20I series before the Hardik Pandya-led side lost the series-decider on Sunday.

Kuldeep Yadav reinforced his reputation of being India's go-to bowler for wickets in the middle overs. The left-arm wrist spinner picked up seven wickets in three ODIs, putting himself well ahead of Yuzvendra Chahal in the pecking order.

Mukesh shines

Mukesh Kumar, too, got the job done with the new ball on the slow wickets.

When I came in, I wasn't able to capitalise and took time: Hardik

Press Trust of India
LAUDERHILL

India captain Hardik Pandya admitted that his lack of rhythm and slow approach became a turning point as his team lost momentum during the back-10 overs of the fifth T20I against West Indies here on Sunday.

The Indian team under Hardik lost its first bilateral series in the shortest format 2-3 to the West Indies, but the skipper harped on the positives, such as the emergence of youngsters Tilak Varma and Yashasvi Jaiswal. "If you see, we lost that period post 10 overs. When I came in, I wasn't able to capitalise, took time and could not finish," Hardik was forthright in his admission, having scored just 14 off 18 balls.

Hardik praised Tilak and Jaiswal for their lion-hearted efforts.

"They've got heart. That is something that's very important in international cricket. Every youngster coming through has belief. That's something I see very often now. Kudos to them, they came out and took responsibility. I can't be happier as a captain," he concluded.

India-WI T20I series in numbers

Batting

	M	Runs	HS	SR	50s
Pooran	5	176	67	141.93	1
King	5	173	85*	130.07	1
Tilak	5	173	51	140.65	1

Bowling

	M	Wkts	BBI	Econ	4W
Shepherd	5	9	4/31	9.58	1
Arshdeep	5	7	3/38	9.17	0
Kuldeep	4	6	3/28	5.75	0

Need to find depth in the batting department, says Dravid

Press Trust of India
LAUDERHILL

India head coach Rahul Dravid has stressed on the need to add batting depth following the 2-3 loss to the West Indies in the T20 series.

India played the series with a long tail comprising Arshdeep Singh, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav and Mukesh Kumar. Spin all-rounder Axar Patel batted at number seven.

"I think in terms of our squad here, probably it didn't allow us the flexibility in some ways to be able to change the combinations a little bit. But I think going forward, we've got to look at certain areas in which we can get better.

"Finding depth in our batting has been an area we are trying to address. We are trying to do the best we possibly can but that's certainly an area we can look at," said Dravid on Sunday.

On the contrary, West Indies had Alzarri Joseph coming in at number 11 with its side packed with bowling all-rounders.

"As these games are going on, and scores are becoming bigger and bigger, if you look at West Indies, they had Alzarri Joseph coming in at No. 11 and he can hit a mean ball. So you have sides which have that depth.

"Obviously, we have some challenges on that front and we need to work on that. It's certainly something that this series has shown us," the India coach pointed out.

India's run continues in Olympic pre-qualifier

ANI
DAMASCUS (SYRIA)

The Indian men's basketball team continued its unbeaten run at the ongoing FIBA Olympic Pre-Qualifying Tournament Asia 2023 with a win over Indonesia by 90-74 on Sunday.

Earlier, India had defeated Syria by 85-74 on Saturday.

India has joined Bahrain at the top of the points table with four points in two matches.

The Indian side looked all-round and complete with solid performances by Muin Bek Hafeez (15 points), Sahaij Sekhon (14 points), Arvind Kumar Muthu Krishnan (13 points) and Pranav Prince (12 points).

Six basketball teams, India, Bahrain, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Syria are a part of the Asian leg of the Olympics pre-qualifiers tournament for the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics.

Feisty Getafe holds Barcelona goalless

Frayed tempers: The Barcelona-Getafe clash witnessed three red cards, including one for manager Xavi. AFP

LALIGA

Reuters
MADRID

Barcelona endured a frustrating evening in its LaLiga season opener with a 0-0 draw in a feisty affair against Getafe marked by several bookings and three red cards on Monday, including the dismissal of visiting manager Xavi Hernandez.

Champion Barca was dominating the match when its winger Raphinha was sent off in the 42nd minute for elbowing Gaston Alvarez in the head off the ball.

Getafe was then also reduced to 10 men in the 57th minute after Jaime Mata's fierce challenge on Ronald Araujo earned him a second yellow card.

Barca manager Xavi was also shown a red card in the 71st minute after complaining about a decision.

Vidit stuns Nepomniachtchi, moves into the quarterfinal; Harika exits

CHESS WORLD CUP

Sports Bureau

Vidit Gujrathi, having watched his younger compatriots hog the spotlight at the FIDE World Cup so far, found a spectacular way of grabbing global headlines.

Starting as an underdog against two-time World championship finalist and fourth-seeded Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi, Vidit pulled off a stunning 4-2 triumph to clinch the last quarterfinal slot and join countrymates D. Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi and R. Praggnanandhaa in Baku.

After Vidit's twin-wins over the strongest Russian in the Open category, D. Harika fell to the strongest Russian in the women's section. Second-seeded Russian Aleksandra Goryachkina stopped Harika 4.5-3.5 by winning the penultimate five-minute blitz game after the last Indian challenger had fought back to make it 2-2. Vidit, after holding Nepomniachtchi in the two-game mini-match in classical time-control over the past two days, proved equal in the two 25-minute rapid games, in 52 and 45 moves before scripting an absolutely stunning climax.

Grabbing the spotlight: Vidit had the measure of Nepomniachtchi. TWITTER@FIDE_CHESS

In the first 10-minute game, the 20th-seeded Indian trailed the Russian on the clock. He was down to under two minutes against his rival who had more than seven minutes, but found the defensive moves accurately. On the 37th move, Nepomniachtchi erred and Vidit, despite all the pressure, saw his chance and seized it.

For the remainder of this 60-move thriller, Vidit consistently found the right continuation. He managed to promote his queen-rook pawn to the seventh rank, supported it with a rook, and soon left the Russian feeling increasingly helpless by decisively getting his king into play. With his rook tied down behind Vidit's advanced pawn and king almost out of play, Nepomniachtchi resigned. Interestingly, when the game ended, Vidit had only 49 seconds to Nepomniachtchi's 5.01 minutes.

Back on the board to avenge the loss with black pieces, Nepomniachtchi gambled with Dutch Defence but an alert Vidit gave nothing away.

Proactive

The 28-year-old Indian displayed fine temperament and played proactively and not for the much-needed draw.

Nepomniachtchi did try to complicate matters but Vidit kept improving his position and gained a rook for a knight. Soon, down a rook and staring at defeat, Nepomniachtchi resigned after 52 moves.

The results (involving Indians, prefix denotes seeding):
Open (pre-quarterfinal):
20-Vidit Gujrathi (2719) bt 4-Ian Nepomniachtchi (FIDE, 2779) 4-2.
Women (quarterfinal):
2-Aleksandra Goryachkina (FIDE, 2557) bt 10-D. Harika (2500) 4.5-3.5.

Asia Cup: Lamichhane in squad, Paudel to lead

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

Nepal on Monday announced a 17-member squad for the upcoming Asia Cup with all-rounder Rohit Paudel as captain of a team that also features former Delhi Capitals spinner Sandeep Lamichhane.

The Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN) took to its social media handles to announce the squad for the tournament that will be jointly organised by Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

CAN also said that the team would be undergoing a week-long preparatory camp in Pakistan, where it would be playing matches against PCB-designated teams.

The squad: Rohit Paudel (Capt.), Kushal Bhurtel, Aasif Sheikh (wk), Bhim Sharki, Kushal Malla, Aarif Sheikh, Dipendra Singh Airee, Gulshan Jha, Sompal Kami, Karan KC, Sandeep Lamichhane, Lalit Rajbanshi, Pratish GC, Shyam Dhakal, Sundeep Jora, Kishore Mahato and Arjun Saud.

Shivamogga Lions trumps Mangalore Dragons in a thriller

Shreyas and Abhinav's 93-run fourth-wicket partnership provides the much-needed impetus to the Lions innings; Hubli Tigers on a roll with win against defending champion Gulbarga Mystics

MAHARAJA TROPHY

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Shreyas Gopal's all-round effort (46 and 1/30) and Abhinav Manohar's 25-ball half-century (50) helped Shivamogga Lions defeat Mangalore Dragons by nine runs in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Monday.

Asked to bat first, the Lions had a decent Power-Play, scoring 50 runs, but slowed down in the middle overs, reaching only 103 by the 15 overs mark.

But Shreyas (46, 32b, 1x4, 3x6) and Abhinav (50, 25b, 1x4, 5x6) combined for 93 fourth-wicket runs from just 48 balls to swell their team's total. M.G. Naveen was the best bowler for the Dragons, picking up four of the five wickets to fall (4/19).

The Mangaluru side stuttered at the start of the chase, and was 76 for five at one stage. K.V. Siddharth (46 n.o., 35b, 1x4, 3x6) and Aniruddha Joshi (50, 31b, 3x4, 4x6) brought the Dragons back with an 83-run partnership for the sixth wicket.

But V. Koushik's dismissal of Joshi when 18 runs were required off eight balls turned the tide.

When the big-hitting K. Gowtham fell three balls later, it was curtains.

On top: Abhinav Manohar's 25-ball half-century helped his side set up a competitive total. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the day's second match, Hubli Tigers made it two wins in a row, beating defending champion Gulbarga Mystics by seven wickets.

Chasing a modest 139, Tigers rode on Luvnith Sisodia's quickfire 61 (40b, 5x4, 3x6) and K.L. Shrijith's 47 (32b, 5x4, 1x6) to complete the job with 28 balls to spare.

The scores:

Shivamogga Lions 176/5 in 20 overs (Rohan Kadam 27, Nihal Ullal 28, Shreyas Gopal 46, Abhinav Manohar 50, M.G. Naveen 4/19) bt Mangalore Dragons 167/7 in 20 overs (K.V. Siddharth 46 n.o., Aniruddha Joshi 50); **MoM:** Shreyas.

Gulbarga Mystics 138 in 19.3 overs (Manvanth Kumar 3/21) lost to Hubli Tigers 141/3 in 15.2 overs (Luvnith Sisodia 61, K.L. Shrijith 47); **MoM:** Luvnith.

Tuesday's matches: Mangalore Dragons vs. Mysore Warriors; Bengaluru Blasters vs. Shivamogga Lions.

A rich legacy of star players and big teams

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

After a five-year gap, one of the oldest cricketing competitions in the country will kick off across four venues in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday. The All India Buchi Babu tournament will feature 12 teams this year and, for the first time, has moved out of Chennai.

The tournament was first played in 1909 in memory of Mothavarapu Venkata Mahipathi Naidu, popularly known as Buchi Babu Naidu (1868-1908).

Buchi Babu played a vital role in taking the game to the masses in Madras. He then decided to conduct a Madras Presidency match in which the best players in the city would take on the Englishmen representing Madras Cricket Club.

However, he passed away before the first edition could be held. From 1909, the tournament was named in his honour.

After being played among local clubs for the next few decades, it became an invitational tournament in the 1960s, with the TNCA organising it and teams from outside the State participating in the competition.

Some of the biggest names in Indian cricket used to be part of the tournament, playing for their employers, like the State Bank of India, Associated Cement Companies (ACC), Nirlon and Mafatlal to name a few.

For the next few decades, the tournament, alongside the Moin-ud-Dowla tournament in Hyderabad, became the curtain-raiser for the domestic season in the country.

Crowd-puller: That Buchi Babu attracted fans in large numbers is a fact Gavaskar would attest to. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Usually held in August-September, the tournament was the ideal pre-season warm-up for the players when the monsoon was active in most parts of the country.

But the advent of the TNPL in 2016 meant it was increasingly getting difficult to shoehorn the tournament into an ever-expanding calendar, and it fell off the grid after the 2017 edition.

It has taken Tamil Nadu's poor record in the Ranji Trophy over the last five years to get the tournament back on the calendar to get its players up and ready for the grind of first-class cricket.

Former India skipper K. Srikkanth recently spoke about how important and prestigious the tournament was during his formative years.

"After the 1971 tour to the West Indies, Sunil Gavaskar came to play Buchi Babu that year for ACC against Jolly Rovers at Loyola College.

"There were 10,000 people to see who Sunil Gavaskar was. I was a seventh-standard boy and watched him play for the first time," Srikkanth recalled.

"This was an important tournament for cricketers here. Once you do well in the First Division, you get selected for Buchi Babu, and then if you do well there, you get picked for the under-25 or even Ranji Trophy side.

"It was the biggest non-First Class tournament in India," he added.

India Cements pro tournament: top golfers to vie for honours

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Om Prakash Chouhan, the Tata Steel-PGTI ranking leader, Aman Raj and Bangladesh's Jamal Hossain will be the star attractions at the India Cements pro golf tournament to be held at Cosmo-TNGF course here from August 16 to 19.

The Pro-Am event will be held on August 15.

The prize money for the tournament is ₹50 lakh, the highest for an event in the city. Uttam Singh Mundy, CEO, PGTI, thanked N. Srinivasan, Vice-Chairman & Managing Director, India Cements, for coming forward to sponsor the tournament. He added that the course was in great shape but "the unexpected rain has been a dampener.

Ready to tee off: Golfer Aman Raj, fourth from left, with the PGTI officials and the sponsor representatives.

"We hope the weather gods will be kind during the tournament."

H.R. Srinivasan, joint president of PGTI, said the course was in "absolute outstanding shape."

The event will witness 126 golfers in action, including 123 professionals and three amateurs. Among the other leading Indian professionals in the field are Karan Pratap Singh, Sachin Baisoya and Gaurav Pratap Singh. Golfers from Sri Lanka, Nepal and Japan will lend the tournament an international flavour.

The Chennai-based golfers – C. Arul, Sandeep Syal and S. Prasanth – will provide the local challenge.

Parthasarathy Ramanujam, Chief Marketing Officer, India Cements, Tushar Malhotra, Head of Marketing, Bisleri International Pvt. Ltd., Anand Nair, General Manager of Crowne Plaza, A. Saravanan, Committee Member, Tamil Nadu Golf Federation, also spoke at the launch of the event.

Good show by TN shuttlers

Sports Bureau
COIMBATORE

After a not-so-impressive show in the team championship a couple of days ago, the Tamil Nadu players staged a comeback, winning five titles, in the 77th South Zone inter-State badminton (individual) championship here on Monday.

Tamil Nadu's Sankar Muthuswamy brought home the team's first medal, defeating P. Saahas Kumar 21-16, 15-2 (retired) in the men's singles final.

Lokesh Viswanathan and P. Naveen followed it up with a 20-22, 21-18, 21-11 win over Ashish Surya and Vaibhav of Karnataka for the doubles title.

Proud moment: Tamil Nadu players clinched five titles in the South Zone inter-State championship. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results (finals): Men: Singles: Sankar Muthuswamy (TN) bt P. Saahas Kumar (TS) 21-16, 15-2; **Doubles:** Lokesh Viswanathan & P. Naveen (TN) bt Ashith Surya & Vaibhav (Kar) 20-22, 21-18, 21-11. **Women: Singles:** Shriyanshi Valishetty (TS) bt N. Jahnavi (AP) 21-5, 21-19; **Doubles:** P. Amrutha & Pranjal Prashanth Prabhu (Kar) bt Gayathri Nambiar & Gowri Krishna (Ker) 15-21, 22-20, 21-19. **Mixed doubles:** V.S. Varshini & A. Hariharan (TN) bt K Sathwik Reddy & K. Vaishnavi (TS) 16-21, 24-22, 21-8. **Boys: U-19 singles:** N. Pranauv Ram (TS) bt R. Anishraj (TN) 21-17, 21-12; **Doubles:** S. Bharath Sanjay & M. Swastik (TN) bt A. Charan Ganesh & K. Sri Mohith (AP) 21-18, 21-17.

Girls: U-19 singles: Muskaan Khan (Kar) bt Prasansha Bonam (TS) 13-21, 21-13, 21-12; **Doubles:** Navya Kanderi & Rashmitha Donepudi (AP) bt B. Prakriti & U. Reshika (TN) 21-15, 21-12.

Mixed doubles: U-19: S. Bharath Sanjai & N. Srinidhi bt Nanda Ghosh & Aman Noushad (Ker) 21-15, 21-9.

Smith. AP

Lahiri finishes runner-up as Smith wins

Press Trust of India
BEDMINSTER (NEW JERSEY)

India's Anirban Lahiri earned a big pay-cheque with a second-place finish at LIV Golf Bedminster, firing an aggregate of five-under at the event.

Lahiri, the only Indian in the Liv Series, shot rounds of 74, 64, 70, totalling five-under and finishing behind Australia's Cameron Smith (66, 67, 68), who aggregated 12-under.

Sweden begins as the favourite against Spain

The *La Roja* has never beaten the Swedes who will be making their fifth appearance in the last-four stage in the history of Women's WC; Spaniards will have their task cut out against Swedish defence

Associated Press
SYDNEY

Spain failed to qualify for the first six editions of the Women's World Cup, but once *La Roja* made the tournament in 2015 it made a steady climb towards joining the global elite.

Now in its third World Cup, the Spaniards have reached a new level and face Sweden in the first World Cup semifinal on Tuesday at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand.

It is Spain's first semifinal in a major tournament since the 1997 European Championships, and the reward for making it this far? A match against the second-ranked team in the world.

The Swedes are playing in a fifth World Cup semifinal: they were runners-up in 2003, finished third three times, and, just to note how consistently strong the Swedes have been, they lost the gold medal match to Canada two years ago at the Tokyo Olympics.

So is Spain nervous? You better believe it.

"If we're not nervous, something is not going right. We have to feel that nervous sense in our stomach and to have the willpower," forward Jenni Hermoso said on the eve of the match.

Spain leads all teams in the tournament with 15 goals so far and is determined to showcase its offense against Sweden, which has so far allowed just two goals.

Spain coach Jorge Vilda wouldn't commit on Monday to how two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas will be used against Sweden.

The Barcelona star has played in all five of Spain's matches, but hasn't been on the field for more than an hour in any match.

Sweden has its own player concern with forward Sofia Jakobsson battling an illness ahead of the match.

Sweden coach Peter Gerhardsson wasn't sure of Jakobsson's status against Spain.

Spain has never beaten Sweden, the Swedes are the favorites to win the semifinal match and maybe the entire tournament.

IAF shares honours with Bengaluru FC

Creating a buzz: Forward Farukh, right, was in the thick of things for Chennaiyin FC. RITU RAJ KONWAR

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau
GUWAHATI

Chennaiyin FC registered a comfortable 3-0 win against Tribhuvan Army FC of Nepal in a Group E league match and became the first to qualify for the quarterfinals of the 132nd Durand Cup on Monday.

Farukh Choudhary opened the scoring before Rahim Ali doubled the lead through a penalty as Chennaiyin led 2-0 at the break. Rafael Crivellaro completed the tally with a late strike.

At the Kishore Bharati Stadium in Kolkata, Indian Air Force held defending champion Bengaluru FC to a 1-1 draw in a Group C encounter.

Vivek Kumar put the Airmen ahead early on in the first half, cashing in on a defensive error by Bengaluru captain Parag Shrivas. Salam Johnson Singh drew level for Bengaluru, fielding its reserve team, near the hour mark.

The results: Group C (Kolkata): Bengaluru FC 1 (Salam Johnson Singh 59) drew with IAF FT 1 (Vivek Kumar 20). **Group E (Guwahati):** Chennaiyin FC 3 (Farukh Choudhary 22, Rahim Ali 40-pen, Crivellaro 84) bt Tribhuvan Army FC 0.

Double delight: Ishaan stamped his authority with a double in the Junior Max class. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ishaan dominates proceedings

NATIONAL KARTING

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

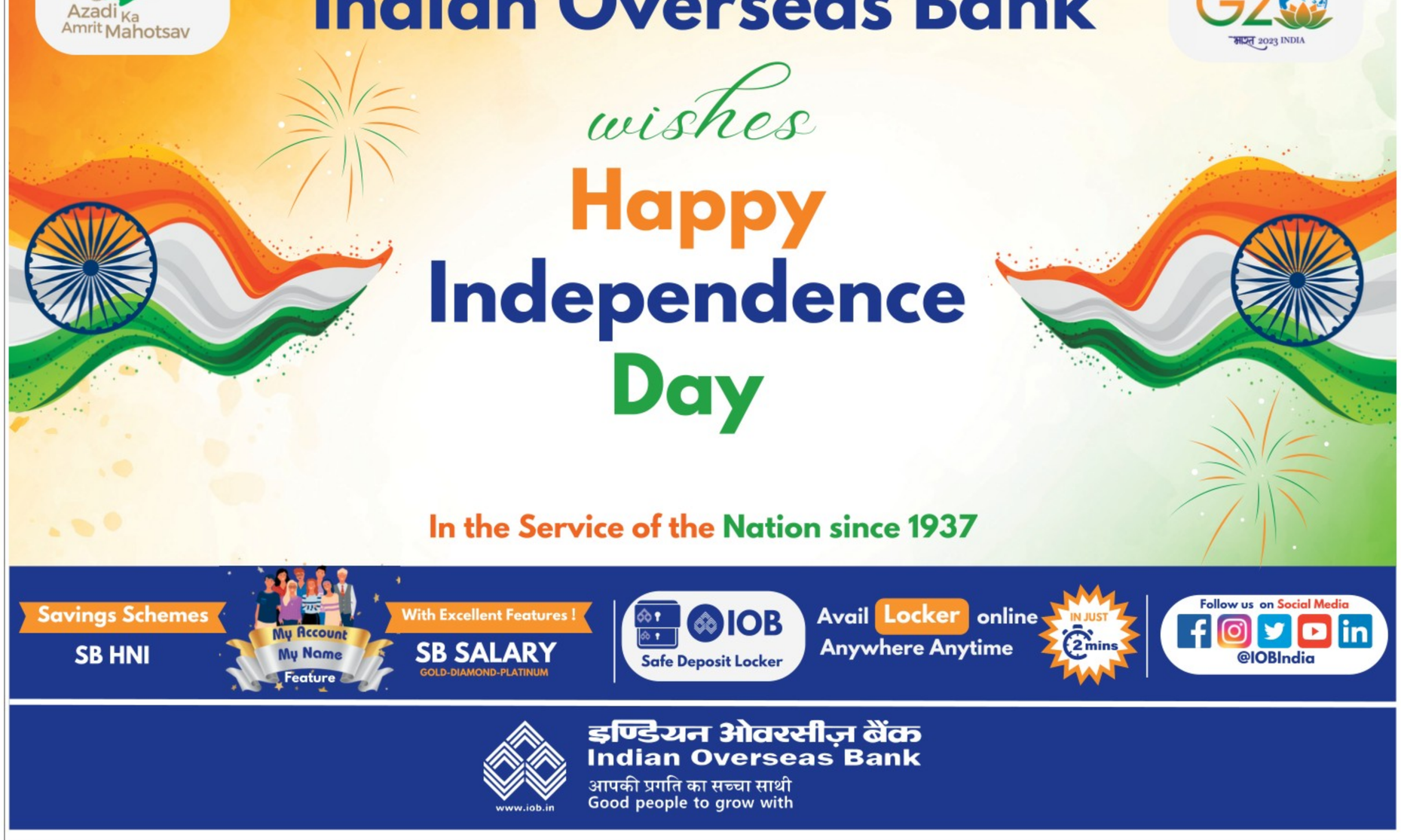
Ishaan Madesh bagged a double even as Peregrine Racing dominated the proceedings in the first round of the Meco FMSCI Rotax Max National Karting Championship 2023 here on Sunday.

Adithiya Arvind and Varun Hari Praveen shared the honours in the Senior class while Darsh Nawalgaria and Rivaan Dev Preetham won a race each in the Micro Max classes.

Ishaan - a multiple-National Champion who missed last year's title by a whisker - began on a winning note bagging both the finals and pre-finals.

The results (winners only): Senior Max: Final: (16 laps): 1. Adithiya Arvind (Peregrine Racing) (15min, 08.232); **Pre-Final: (14 laps):** 1. Varun Hari Praveen (Peregrine Racing) (12:57.636); **Junior Max: Final: (14 laps):** 1. Ishaan Madesh (Peregrine Racing) (13:02.610); **Pre-Final:** (12 laps): 1. Ishaan Madesh (Peregrine Racing) (11:08.545); **Micro Max: Final: (12 Laps):** 1. Darsh Nawalgaria (MSport) (12:15.006); **Pre-Final: (10 Laps):** 1. Rivaan Dev Preetham (MSport) (10:09.634).

Surender elected HRC Chairperson

HYDERABAD: R. Surender Reddy was unanimously elected Chairperson of the Hyderabad Race Club (HRC), at the 52nd Annual General Meeting held on Monday (Aug. 14).

The following were the Members elected Directors/Stewards of HRC: Hari Kishen Gupta, V. Krishna Das, Col. S.B. Nair and N.V.R. Narasimha Reddy.